

BAY AREA REPORTER

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1528 15TH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

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Feds Threaten, But Vigil Stays

by Allen White

The federal government has begun its plan to rid itself of the ARC/AIDS Vigil by Feb. 27. A refurbishing effort in the lobby adjacent to the Vigil will be completed by then and the government plans to re-open doors that have not been used since the Vigil began in October, 1985.

The first move was made last week by Federal Building Security Director John Johnson when he made a verbal request to the Vigil members. He told protesters he wanted two beds which have been chained to the building's doors removed. They were given a copy of federal law which specifies that a six-foot strip in front of the building is off limits. Violation of the code carries a 30-day jail sentence and a fine.



The vigilers hold their ground.

(B.A.R. Photo)

(Continued on page 2)

'Sadly, our refusal to leave the 'bed area' may result in an unjustifiable arrest. If that occurs, we ask all members, supporters and friends of the Vigil to respond in a spirit of determined non-violence.'

Today

Two Faithed: The Fairies, with their spiritual smorgasbord of paganism and camp, now have a place to call home. They've purchased an 80-acre farm in Oregon. Brian Jones reports, page 14.

Band Plays On: With their appearance in the recent Chinese New Year's Parade, the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps kicks off its tenth year. See page 5.

Isolated: That's what the San Jose Police Dept. has been called in a new report on gay community-police relations, see page 3.

Moral Courage: And the lack of it are portrayed in the S.F. Repertory Theatre's long awaited production of Martin Sherman's play *Bent*. See page 36.



Place in the Sun

Earl Galvin found a place in the sun on Sunday as a summer-like heat wave warmed a bench at the Castro Street Muni Metro Station.

(B.A.R. Photo/Brian Jones)

Pickup Leads To Double Slaying

Police Investigating Link to 16 Unsolved Homicides

by Ray O'Loughlin

Homicide inspectors discovered what has become a too familiar scenario lately in San Francisco in investigating a double slaying that occurred Monday in a posh South of Market apartment complex.

Apparently, one of the victims, Ronaldo Ricardo de Ellis, brought home a man he'd met, possibly in a nearby bar. Twenty minutes later, dying from stab wounds, he called 911, saying, "Someone's trying to kill me."

Police are investigating the possibility of a serial killer responsible for some of the 16 unsolved murders. But at present, they have no leads.

When police responded, they found de Ellis and another man, both dead from multiple knife wounds. Both were nude.

"They killed each other, there's no question about that," said Inspector Ed Erdelatz. "It

(Continued on page 20)

Pierce Keeps Job Despite Remark to 'Machine Gun' Gays

Senate Votes 28-4 to Confirm Duke's Nominee for DMV Director

by Brian Jones

Just hours away from losing his job, A.A. "Del" Pierce won confirmation from the California Senate last week. The Senate voted 28-4 to confirm Pierce as director of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), despite sworn testimony that Pierce once "joked" about shooting gay people.

(Continued on page 2)

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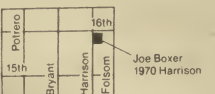
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Vigil

(Continued from page 1)

The deadline Johnson gave was last Tuesday morning at 8 a.m. As the time arrived the Vigilers were prepared. About ten people were sitting on the beds, chained to the doors. They had all received training in non-violent civil disobedience tactics.

Gary Harmon and Wes North, two people with AIDS, were among the people chained to the doors. Standing to the side were Paul Albert and Bruce Fodiman of the National Lawyers Guild. They stood by to give legal aid and to monitor any violations of rights of any Vigil members.

Predictably, the media turned out in full force. Over 50 photographers formed a wall around the protesters. All were waiting for the government to move.

The 8 a.m. time came and went without incident. The government had not acted. Many sensed no action would come in view of the many television cameras.

As the day passed, Security Director Johnson commented when asked about government strategy that the only information he could offer is the opening date of the newly cleaned lobby area. As workmen brought in painting and cleaning equipment, it became clear the entrance to the government's Department of Health and Human Services building was being readied for re-opening.

Pierce

(Continued from page 1)

Three former Pierce associates testified under oath that in 1983 Pierce had said, "Oh, I know how to handle that problem"—discrimination against gay people—"just give me a sub-machine gun."

At that time, Pierce was head of the Consumer Services Agency, which would have been responsible for enforcing AB-1, the state gay-rights bill. AB-1 passed shortly after Pierce was said to have made the remark. But AB-1 was vetoed by Gov. George Deukmejian—who later appointed Pierce to the \$81,000-a-year DMV job.

The governor reportedly worked behind the scenes to confirm Pierce. Clearly the affair became an embarrassment to Deukmejian.

That view was expressed in floor debate Friday, Feb. 13 by Sen. Barry Keene (D-Benicia). Although Keene voted to confirm Pierce, he had sharp words for Deukmejian.

Keene said Pierce is one of several Deukmejian appointees whose careers have been shadowed by racist, sexist or homophobic remarks. "There is a pattern in these appointments," Keene said. "There is something wrong with the screening process or the pool of appointments he [Deukmejian] is drawing from. It all adds up to something."

PERJURY

A majority of senators appeared to agree with Sen. Dan Boatwright (D-Concord), who said that Pierce deserved "the benefit of the doubt." Boatwright said of the submachine gun remark, "If it was said, it was not said in malice."

Three state officials who formerly served with Pierce testified twice under oath that Pierce made the statement, Pierce and two officials who had served with him testified that he did not make the remark. The only thing which was certain is that someone committed perjury during the Senate Rules Committee

hearings.

Key testimony came from Betty Reader, a friend of Pierce's. After dodging Senate investigators for six weeks, Reader appeared at the third of three Rules Committee hearings on Pierce's confirmation.

Reader testified that Pierce did make the "submachine gun" statement. She belittled the importance of the remark, however, testifying, "The comment was stated in an offhand, joking manner."

Such damning testimony from a friend of Pierce's persuaded Senate President Pro Tem David Roberti that Pierce did "joke" about shooting gay people.

"I think the comment was made," Roberti said.

When Pierce's confirmation came to a full vote, however, only Roberti (D-L.A.), Sen. Milton Marks (D-S.F.), Sen. Quentin Kopp (Ind.-S.F.), and Sen. Art Torres (D-L.A.) voted against Pierce. All four senators have large, identifiable gay communities in their districts.

'IT WAS WORTH IT'

Leading the fight against the Pierce confirmation for the gay community was John Wahl, political vice-president of the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club. Pierce's opponents represented a coalition of Hispanic, veterans and gay activists.

Despite losing the fight to block Pierce, Wahl was upbeat.

"I'll tell you one thing—they know they have been in a fight," Wahl said. "I hear they have put Pierce on notice that he had better watch it—that some of the members of the Senate will have an eye out to see how he proceeds on nondiscrimination and affirmative action."

"It was worth it. We sensitized the legislature and the governor—and the people of the state—that talking about shooting gay people is no joke," Wahl said. The Pierce controversy was big news throughout California, although the San Francisco Chronicle only published one article on the dispute.

Gay Groups Call Protest On Quarantine

A coalition of gay groups will protest a proposal before the California Conference of Local Health Officers to quarantine some people with AIDS or the AIDS virus. The proposal calls for the establishment of a state detention facility for AIDS "suspects" found to "knowingly and willingly" have spread the AIDS virus.

The protest is set for 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at the State Building, McAllister Street entrance, in the Civic Center, San Francisco.

Supporting organizations as of Feb. 17 included AIDS/ARC Vigil, Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, Citizens for Medical Justice and the Mobilization Against AIDS.

Prof. Bill Paul, coordinator of the coalition calling the protest, said he anticipated more community groups would endorse the protest by Feb. 24.

refuse."

Continuing, "Sadly, our refusal to leave the 'bed area' may result in an unjustifiable arrest. If that occurs, we ask all members, supporters and friends of the Vigil to respond in a spirit of determined non-violence."

The now familiar tents would remain, no matter what action is taken by the federal government. They are on city property and protected by actions by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

In response to an appeal by the Grey Panthers, a senior citizens organization, The North Face, an outdoor equipment manufacturer, has donated 12 all-weather tents to the Vigil, replacing their old tents.

Since the Vigil began Oct. 27, 1985, the group has become internationally known and recognized as a symbol of the inability of the United States government to recognize the Vigil through the issuance of a mailing address. The address is 501½ United Nations Plaza.

The Vigil's goals include massive increases in federal funding to combat AIDS, with the stipulation that those funds not be diverted from existing health programs. Vigil members also want federal officials to allow people with ARC to be eligible for disability, to release treatments not yet approved by the FDA, and to condemn discrimination because of ARC or AIDS.

In contrast, the Los Angeles Times published three articles on the Pierce controversy. And while newspaper, radio and television reports in other areas focused on the anti-gay statement, the Chronicle report did not quote the "submachine gun" remark.

Wahl was joined in lobbying against Pierce by long-time local activist Paul Hardman, Vietnam veteran Leonard Matlovich, Rev. Jerry Sloan of Sacramento—who successfully sued Rev. Jerry Falwell—and the Sacramento River City Democratic Club, a gay group.

None of the San Francisco political clubs actively opposed the Pierce confirmation, or took a stand on his confirmation. One gay club in Los Angeles—the Log Cabin Republicans—endorsed Pierce.

Wahl said a long-term benefit of the Pierce dispute is that "we have forged some strong alliances with Hispanic and veterans groups in the state which will help accumulate some power for all of us."

SJPD Called Isolated From Gay Community

Officers Label Gay Class 'Immoral'; City Council Doesn't Recommend Future Classes

by Marv. Shaw

A new report recently sent to the San Jose City Council indicates that San Jose police are isolated from that city's gay and lesbian community. The report was compiled by San Jose State University professor Wiggys Sivertsen who conducted a series of classes for SJPD officers on the gay community. Sivertsen said that her experience showed that while there may be little overt harassment of gay people by police, negative comments about gays are common.

Sivertsen also said that a survey of officers taking the classes revealed that many felt that the course was politically motivated. Among self-identified "born again Christians," responses were predictably negative.

Calling it the hardest but one of the most meaningful jobs she has ever done, Sivertsen taught Dispersing Myths about Gay and Lesbian People to 25 sections of the San Jose Police Department over a six-month period in 1986. The goal of the classes was to open a link of communication between the gay and lesbian community and the department. Evaluations from participants indicate some success.

The impetus for the training was the 1985 shooting of Melvin Truss by a San Jose policeman. The officer asserted that Truss, in drag, had propositioned him and then tried to hold him up at knifepoint. Both the police investigation and a county grand jury supported the officer's actions as justifiable homicide. However, the gay community was outraged.

Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC) officers Sivertsen, Richard Gordon, and Ken Yeager hoped to correct police attitudes and treatment of gays and lesbians after a police department spokesman's statement that Truss's death was brought about by his lifestyle.

Calling on the San Jose City Council for action, BAYMEC demanded training that would sensitize police to sexual orientation. In June 1985, the council ordered the police to institute such training.

Sivertsen, working from many years of experience in social work, established guidelines for the course with the help of Chief Joseph McNamara and his staff. After review and some practice classes, one of which was monitored by fundamentalist Councilwoman Lu Ryden, the sessions started on Jan. 17, 1986.

In a single class period Sivertsen endeavored, through lecture and discussion, to make clear the socio-psychological nature of the gay community; that it is not made up of child molesters; use of acceptable and unacceptable terms; and major concerns with police actions.

Out of approximately 1,000 San Jose police officers, 375 took the course in groups of 20 to 30.

The evaluations, while not complete — because Sivertsen was not always given the responses — showed a strongly positive response from the majority. The ratings were for both the content and the performance of the instructor.

A grade of "A" came from 80, and 132 graded it "B." On whether the class was informative, 122 called it "good," while 49 called it "very good," and 161 stated that they would recommend the class to others.

But on the point of the class remaining part of the San Jose po-

lice in-service training, 121 denied that it should. Over 100 did support it, but the reversal from the previous categories was striking.

Sivertsen explains that the major reason for this attitude is that the officers feel that this kind of education belongs in the police academy, not on the job.

Actually, Sivertsen agrees that would be a better placement. Officers feel resentful against "outsiders" coming in and telling them why and how to change their professional behavior, she said.

Specifics in response to the

question on improving the presentation included recommendations such as "More detail about how we can relate to the community. What do they complain about most?"

But others were opposed. Said one, "Admit the abnormalities of homosexuality. The avoidance of admitting that other than the heterosexual instinctive relationship would mean the demise of the human race, negates this class."

On the degree of informativeness, individual responses were even more striking. "Everybody in the department should get to listen in on it," said one. "Very

enjoyable. Cleared up some misconceptions."

But many didn't like the classes. "The class was offensive to me. Seems to be more of a stroke for the gay and lesbian community than an informative lecture," said one officer.

Strong pro and con answers came also to the question "Would you recommend this class to be given for others?" One typical response read: "Yes, it is another problem that we as police have to learn how to deal with. We need to understand how gays are viewing us and what we can do to cooperate."

But so was this: "Class seemed to be put on for political reasons and not because it contained information that would be useful for police officers. I don't think a class on gays and lesbians would alleviate biases or prejudices by any individuals."

The heaviest hostility came from a relatively small number of officers who self-identified as religious and simply marked "Immoral" across the evaluation sheet.

Following the statistical and other data, Sivertsen commented, "The police department is isolated from the gay and lesbian community. Because the police ride around in automobiles, they seldom mix with the community

unless there is a problem. A variety of methods could be used to bridge the gap between the two groups, such as meeting in community social settings and participating in ride-along sessions."

Many officers said that their beliefs about homosexuality would never interfere with their professional standards. However, Sivertsen believes that unconscious prejudice plays a strong part in conditioning how police act toward gays.

"If I teach the class again," she stated, "I would spend more time speaking to officers' personal opinions of gays. I would also attempt to find a gay man who could help me teach the class and extend the length to at least two hours."

In addition to recommending that obviously prejudiced police not be assigned in gay areas of San Jose, Sivertsen urges continued training for the department, with the class taught every two years. But because so many officers did not get the course in the last session, she believes it should be repeated in 1987.

San Jose City Council accepted Sivertsen's report and referred it to SJPD Chief McNamara. But the council made no recommendation to continue the training.

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Police Chief Frank Jordan, center, told his people to go back to the drawing board.
(Photo: R. Pruzan)

Chief Jordan Says Training to Stay

by Will Snyder

The San Francisco Police Academy Community Awareness Program is in the process of more reorganization, but SFPD top brass said they were committed to keeping the program alive. Police Chief Frank Jordan told Bay Area Reporter this week that he doesn't yet know how many hours of community awareness will be given to future cadets. "But whatever it takes to get us the quality program we need, we will do it."

According to Jordan, "If that means giving the cadets more than 42 hours as in the past, we'll do it. If it means less hours than 42, we'll do that as well."

Jordan praised gay community groups for their feedback on an issue which has picked up some steam lately. The academy used to provide a 42-hour community

awareness program which allowed cadets extra lectures about and field trips into the lesbian and gay, black, Latino, Chinese, Japanese and Filipino communities. Recent classes, however, have been limited to eight hours of classroom work on the subject and extra hours of field training.

Jule Anderson Speaks On Black Gay History

Jule Anderson, executive director of the San Francisco African-American Historical and Cultural Society, will present "We Wear the Mask," a talk about Black gay and lesbian history, at the next general meeting of the Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society on Thursday, Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the S.F. African-American Historical and Cultural Society, Fort Mason Center, Building C, Room 165, San Francisco. General admission will be \$5; Gay Historical Society members will be admitted free. Refreshments will be served.

'Whatever it takes to get us the quality (minority awareness) program we need, we will do it.'

—S.F. Police Chief Frank Jordan

"The Community Services Division (CSD) dropped the ball there," Jordan said. "They didn't get their curriculum requirements in on time. It was not the fault of the Academy for the cut-back in hours."

According to Jordan, the CSD is going over what is necessary on an hour-by-hour basis. Jordan insisted that the reason for the cut-backs was not because of budget. "The funds for the academy have always been there," he said.

One of the biggest problems facing Jordan is the lack of cadets. He has 40 in class at the moment. "Because of retirements, disabilities, and sometimes terminations," he said, he could use more new recruits.

"All of the retirements, disabled officers and terminations are pretty normal," said Jordan, "but I'd like to get back to offering two academy classes totalling 160 cadets."

Sex Ed. Plan Hits Snag

Gay Portion Deleted To Appease Fundies

by Charles Linebarger

Proposed state guidelines on sex education were approved by the California State Board of Education last week but controversial portions dealing with homosexuality were sent back to committee for further study. Lobbying by Christian fundamentalists and grandstanding by right-wing state legislators were seen as the culprits.

At issue is a section of the proposed sex education guidelines that says that appropriate material on homosexuality includes "a thorough discussion of homosexuality... but neither encourages nor condemns homosexuality."

The section of the guidelines dealing with homosexuality had drawn fire from 32 state Assemblymembers in January. The legislators, most of them Republicans, held a press conference to publicize their distaste for the guidelines neutral stance on homosexuality. They also sent a letter to state Superintendent of Public Instruction Bill Honig asking him to revise the guidelines.

Honig refused to revise the recommendations and instead sent them without revision to the state board of education. That board separated the sections dealing with homosexuality from the rest of the document and sent them back to committee.

"This is absurd," said the group's letter to Honig. "The homosexual lifestyle is both immoral and a grave danger to public health." The letter from the 32 legislators also asked that the subject of gay men and lesbians not be mentioned in elementary schools. In fact, the guidelines explicitly say that the subject is not to be discussed in grade school classes.

Local educators and gay activists responded to the action by the state board of education by holding their own press conference at the city's state building on Feb. 13.

Said Carmen Vasquez of the



Carmen Vasquez
(Photo: Rink)

Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau, "There was a furor around having any mention of homosexuality that wasn't negative. The guidelines allowed for a factual discussion of homosexuality."

Vasquez quoted from a section of the guidelines which was sent back to committee, "Family values are affirmed throughout the program as well as respect and tolerance for the dignity of the individual, regardless of sexual preference. Programs should also break down stereotypical thinking."

"As far as the people objecting to this are concerned," said Vasquez, "this makes homosexuality respectful. From our standpoint respect and tolerance are something that should be part of the curriculum. One of the things a teacher is there to do is to develop respect and tolerance for individual differences."

(Continued on page 20)

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The Band Plays On

Freedom Day Band Marks Ten Years

by Allen White

As the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps marched in the Feb. 7 Chinese New Year's Parade they entered their tenth year as the nation's oldest and most famous gay musical aggregation. The group which performed for the first time in 1978 is now part of the thriving San Francisco Band Foundation.

President Les Bruno recently issued a State of the Foundation report detailing the efforts of the organization. "As we enter our tenth year," he said, "I must say how proud we all should be as supporters of the Foundation."

"Our growth internally seems to feed on itself," he reported. "Our longevity indicates permanence and permits persons to participate when and how they feel comfortable."

The stability and permanence of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band was exemplified by Ralph Odom. He marched in the parade carrying the band's big bass drum. He has carried the drum, which has appeared on t-shirts and posters, in almost every parade since the group was formed.

Ralph Odom was one of those who responded to announcements posted in gay bars all over San Francisco in 1978. A Daly City school teacher by the name of Jon Sims had called for a rehearsal at the Trocadero Transfer for what he hoped would be a "gay band." To Sims' delight, almost 100 people turned out and the band was on its way.

In the 1978 Gay Freedom Day Parade, Jon Sims led the band as it marched down Market Street for the first time. Instantly, the band became the musical version of gay pride. During the Chinese New Year parade, they were still playing "If My Friends Could See Me Now," "California, Here I Come" and their own arrangement of "San Francisco." The band was led by drum major Allen Hable with the musical direction now by Jay Kast.

The founder of the band, Jon Sims, died of AIDS in July 1984. His memory and dream have been kept alive with the Jon Sims Performing Arts Centre. Les Bruno said that the foundation had successfully negotiated a five-year lease on the building which has three large rehearsal studios and four offices.

Bruno noted they had also negotiated for and will receive \$60,000 from the City Block Grant Program for needed improvements. He also said, "We

are the first nonprofit organization, who does not own their space, to be designated recipients in this program."

As the foundation completed 1986, they boasted of the addition of the Vocal Minority singing group to their corporate family. They had performed at the Gay Games and presented several concerts throughout the year.

The City Swing dance band and the San Francisco Tap Troupe have performed for the Friday night tea dance at the Trocadero Transfer. The event was a natural for the two groups which specialize in the musical presentation of the big band era.

City Swing has developed under the direction of Wayne Love into one of the finest swing bands in Northern California. Their



The San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps at the recent Chinese New Year's Parade. (Photo: Savage Photography)

next big event will be the Cable Car Awards on Feb. 28.

The San Francisco Tap Troupe is one of the oldest and most popular groups in the Band Foundation. They traveled with the FLAG Corps and City Swing to the Vancouver Expo last September. The Tap Troupe and City Swing return to the Trocadero

Transfer for their tea dance on March 13.

As the San Francisco Band Foundation has grown, so has their financial structure. Bruno stated, "Our 1986 budget was \$174,982 while our 1987 budget is \$323,750." He noted that the hotel tax grant has been increased to \$8,500.

Bruno credited the Foundation board of directors for "working continually to maintain our equilibrium Foundation-wise and within our various units. Not an easy task at best," he added.

"Our challenge is to make the next decade as exciting and diverse as our first ten years," said Bruno.



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EDITORIAL & OPINION

No Military Solution

What if the baby lives? That was my first thought when, one evening on the nightly news, there was a segment on a Northern California group of religious people who were adopting a newborn infant whose mother may someday develop AIDS. Everybody had this child all but buried.

They planned to take good care of her, try to make her days on earth as pleasant as possible, ease her pain, and mourn her short, troubled life when it was over. Was the baby ill? No. Had there been any diagnosis of an AIDS-related problem? No, again.

Well, she might have tested positive to HIV antibody — the story hinted at that but never said so. The reason she was the object of such pity and generosity was that her mother, who also did not have AIDS, was a drug user and had tested positive for HIV antibody.

Fate had sealed the future shut for these two people. Any connection with the AIDS virus meant AIDS infection which in turn meant they had AIDS. None of that is true. But to many people the long and complicated — and little understood — process leading from the presence of HIV antibody to full-blown AIDS has been telescoped into one short step.

Might I remind all that HIV is only the presumed cause of AIDS — it has not been established by medical scientists that it truly is the cause. Further, it is not known how the virus works and if it works alone or in conjunction with other viruses or other deficiencies.

All of which leads me to pose the question: Can anyone tell me why the HIV antibody test should be mandatory or widely relied upon for anything beyond what it was invented for, a blood screening device?

Why do government health officials persist in pushing this test?

It is not a diagnosis of anything — although the test's results are increasingly treated as such.

There is no treatment for an HIV infection other than general good advice to take care of yourself, which you ought to do anyway. Potential treatments are still very much in the experimental stage and not recommended unless there is some clear medical problem to be addressed.

The stress brought on by HIV test results could induce illness from prolonged bouts of flu to AIDS itself.

And the presence of HIV antibody may even indicate, as one recent study suggested, that the immune system may be fighting off the viral invader. There is much about HIV that nobody knows.

Advocates of the test say it will slow the spread of the disease. How? They're presuming that people tested will be impressed by their results to change risky behavior perpetrated by them or upon them. That's dubious. Shock value wears off eventually and shock can lead people to positive or negative turns. The only way a blood test result will reinforce behavioral change is if the person wants to use it so; the choice to take the test is completely voluntary, and the results are totally confidential.

The only result of any national, mandatory testing for HIV antibody would be to identify a class of people for social stigma, job loss, and possible confinement. Testing is the first step toward implementing mass quarantine. Since the initiative to impose testing comes from a government that has rejected all notions of protecting the civil rights of people with AIDS, it is difficult to conclude otherwise.

Quarantine seems to be the logical move for the Reagan Administration and its allies in Gov. George Deukmejian's Administration. They've firmly resisted most efforts to deal with the AIDS epidemic rationally and humanely. Are the Reaganoids, prone as they are to employ military solutions to their problems, planning to just bully AIDS into confinement?

It'll be expensive. A mandatory, national testing and quarantine program will cost money to implement. That money will no doubt be taken away from resources badly needed and already badly strained in trying to cope with the present health crisis.

And it will backfire. Massive involuntary testing will drive the disease underground. People needing treatment will not get it. Forcing AIDS underground will only hasten its spread as well as worsen the consequences and expense to this society.

Massive mandatory testing is a completely bogus method of dealing with AIDS. It is not a solution. It is a hindrance to the solution. It promotes hysteria, not reason, and will cripple research and treatment development. There is no military solution for AIDS. Stopping the epidemic will take education, compassion, commitment, time and money.

If our first responsibility is to the many and not the few, then any form of mandatory testing for HIV and quarantine for people with AIDS should not be allowed.

Ray O'Loughlin

OPINION

Bad Science

by Martin Delaney

What is Dr. Abrams saying in his slap at Brian Jones and the ribavirin study? Are we asked to doubt the integrity of the researchers because the study doesn't conform to his beliefs? I wonder how Drs. Mansell, Haseltine, Roberts, Hernandez, Dickenson, and Leedom, the respected, independent researchers who conducted the study, feel about this.

While peer review will finally determine the value of the study, the particular objections raised sound like bad science to this ear. Study participants cannot be validly compared to all other LAS patients seen since 1981. People in the study were all cultured positive to HIV, tested positive for HIV and CMV antibodies, and had T4 cell counts of less than 500 (a mean of 300, many less than 100). And all were sufficiently concerned about their illness to submit to an intrusive, 28 week long study.

Also, there is reason to believe that some were more ill than would be expected by the inclusion criteria, having bent the rules (often with the help of their physicians) in a desperate attempt to get in a study. It is very unlikely that these criteria were true of all the LAS patients Dr. Abrams uses for comparison. The comparison is deeply flawed, at least if the rules of science are to be respected.

Dr. Abrams also wonders why "3/4 of the presumably effective dose of the drug was as ineffective as placebo." Perhaps he hasn't read the study. There was a clear difference in the rate of progression to AIDS (and in the expectation of survival) at the lower dose compared to placebo. This data was presented for peer review at a conference of the Western Association of Physicians on Feb. 3. Wouldn't it have been more valid for the writer to acknowledge that he hadn't seen the data rather than voice suspicion?

Patients who find success with ribavirin therapy generally report using it on a long term, consistent basis under the care of a physician who supports this therapy. Physicians opposed to the use of the drug are unlikely to retain such patients in their care. Many physicians supporting and monitoring patients using this drug have a more encouraging story to tell.

To be fair, not all have been helped by ribavirin. This is true of any AIDS treatment, including AZT. And the current study does not once and forever prove the drug's effectiveness. Standard statistical analysis,

however, says that there is a less than 7 in 1000 chance that the study outcome is the result of luck. The trends shown are very clear and suggestive of efficacy. Previous studies also offered hope. Drug safety demonstrated in the study exceeds that of other AIDS anti-viral treatments.

Future studies must be conducted to confirm these conclusions, but in the meantime, should all LAS patients be expected to "wait and see"? Must people await the one true "magic bullet" before getting any help? How many more will unnecessarily progress to AIDS if we follow this approach? Even if ribavirin merely slows things down for as little as six months, wouldn't it be worthwhile to put patients "on hold" until something better becomes available?

Knee-jerk negativity about ribavirin is symptomatic of the rigid orthodoxy infecting AIDS research. Products born in government sponsored labs, such as AZT and (soon) DDC, are licensed to big time pharmaceutical companies and get red carpet treatment by the FDA, CDC, NIH, and centers funded by them. This is fine when it speeds help to patients in need.

Yet promising treatments from smaller, non-establishment manufacturers or researchers, such as AL 721, DNCB, ribavirin, and isoprinosine, are routinely cast aside. No federal money is allotted for testing them and they are met by bureaucratic sludge, instead of a red carpet, when presented to regulators. Why? Because no government researchers are associated with them, (as they are with AZT and DDC), because no one in government is going to become famous or have their careers advanced by them, and because they aren't the products of the "good old boy" network which has come to dominate government AIDS research in this country.

The link between the regulatory agencies and big time pharmaceutical houses is a mirror image of the swinging door which exists between the Pentagon and the major military hardware manufacturers. Health agencies are no more above politics and influence peddling than any other branch of government.

The least we can ask is that decisions be made solely on the basis of science. When physicians condemn possibly helpful treatment options before the final research is in, they discourage hope and, in the absence of better alternatives against a fatal disease, promote false helplessness.

Although Martin Delaney is associated with Project Inform, this is strictly a personal commentary and not an official position of the Project.

LETTERS

An Arrogant Attack

★ I hope that Dr. Warner's arrogant attack on Brian Jones (Feb. 5) is his own view and not representative of BAPHR as a whole as is implied by his signature. Aside from the flawed intellectual content of the letter, Dr. Warner's arrogance serves to demonstrate why the gay community needs writers like Jones.

Dr. Warner seems to be saying that people infected with HIV have no right to discuss advances against the disease. He warns us to save our wrath for causes we "may know more about." What authoritarian nonsense! We are the ones most affected and not only have the right to question how we are treated by physicians and the government, but have a duty to do so. We are often more involved in seeking solutions than individual researchers or physicians. Many physicians readily admit that patients are one of their prime sources of information on new treatments and studies. Why is Dr. Warner so afraid of this?

Many who have sheepishly followed some physicians' advice to "wait and see" have paid for it with their lives. Recent studies indicate that a "wait and see" policy will lead to prolonged suffering, even death for the vast majority of HIV-infected individuals. Dr. Warner, along with a number of others, apparently would like to continue shielding us from this harsh reality. Many physicians treating HIV patients who promoted "wait and see" three or four years ago have long since changed their views. At the very least, physicians should encourage free and open discussion of the relative risks and benefits of various treatment options.

The recent ribavirin trial results strongly suggest that hundreds of people may be enjoying sustained health today because they weighed the risks and obtained the drug abroad, without waiting for the bureaucracy to approve. The same may or may not be true for those following various other "alternative" therapies.

I encourage Dr. Warner to re-think his position. I also encourage community writers and activists to yield not one inch of the high ground they have taken on behalf of us.

David Winterhalter
Berkeley

He's Just Wild About Harry

★ Finally, an opportunity for true and direct representation in Washington D.C.

Oh yes, we been represented . . . by those who claimed to know and do what was best for us. We've even had homosexuals in Washington . . . who were pulled out of the closet only after being caught in some sexual exploitation. Some "closet cases," before being exposed, even worked for the opposition; doing a great deal of damage for the progression of human rights for gays and lesbians. Do not believe those who claim that homosexuals have no place in Congress. That's what they said about blacks too.

We need good, true, and direct representation now. It is imperative that we be united behind our candidate for Congress. There should be no division. Twenty-three million homosexuals in this country are counting on us to elect Harry Britt.

Ronald T. Pannell
San Francisco

The Buena Vista Park Situation

This letter was sent to Deborah Lerner, Park Planner, Recreation and Park Dept., San Francisco:

★ I would like to commend you for the care and thoughtfulness which went into the preparation of the Buena Vista Park Master Plan of Jan. 1987. As a document designed to meet the needs of numerous and varied segments of our citizenry, it appears to be a splendidly workable proposal.

I would also like, as a long-time resident of the neighborhood, user of the park and observer of gay culture, to make particular mention of the proposal to erect protective fencing around four of the most heavily-eroded areas of the park. You must know that there is an element of the gay community which regards any impingement upon its freedoms, real or imagined, to be a call to arms. There will be those who will view the erection of any fencing as an attack upon the right of citizens to meet in outdoors congress, freely, in the park's dimmest precincts and chambers. By these persons the fences will be received as an engraved invitation to civil disobedience.

As it happens, I am one of these persons—constrained in this instance, however, by a small knowledge of horticulture. If the fences are to succeed—inspite of the fact that you have clearly bent over backwards to propose that they be limited to a nonauthoritarian four feet in height—they must be accompanied by some particular intelligent signage. I would like to propose the following:

"This fence is not a stop sign for you. It is a green light for shrubs and ground cover. Please comply. The park needs them badly right now.

—or something along these lines. People who like to scramble in the brush in the fresh air are environmentalists, at least in embryo. Perhaps their greatest failing is an excess of idealism—an overheated nostalgia for Eden—in their embrace of the outdoors. Chances are good they'll be easy to educate as to the fragility of the park's ecosystems. Let the fences speak intelligently to them.

Mark Rhynsbarger
San Francisco

Misleading Subhead

★ The subhead for Charles Linebarger's article on the Alameda County AIDS appropriation (Jan. 29, page 21) was misleading to your readers and staff who may not be familiar with East Bay AIDS services.

The headline, "East Bay Wants 'Shanti-Like' Volunteers," suggests that we don't have an emotional support volunteer program, when in fact we have provided a peer counselor program since 1983. The money we receive from the county will be used to expand our direct services program, which now includes four staff positions and 150 peer counseling volunteers.

Corinne Lightweaver
Media Specialist
Oakland

ED. NOTE: The origin for the subhead is found in the fifth paragraph of the story: "The \$50,000 AIDS allocation will be partly used to provide 'Shanti-like' volunteers at the AIDS Project of the East Bay, according to Brian Cross, the county AIDS services coordinator."

Will Snyder

What Do You Think Now, George?

This letter was sent to Gov. George Deukmejian:

★ On behalf of the Human Rights Commission, I am pleased to submit to you the Annual Sexual Orientation Complaint Report—FY1985-86, produced by our Lesbian/Gay Liaison Unit, which shows a dramatic increase in the number of complaints reported overall and specifically in those categorized as AIDS/ARC discrimination complaints. It is our hope that this report will inform and increase your understanding of discrimination as it impacts the lives of lesbian and gay men.

The Commission receives reports, on a daily basis, from complainants attesting to the devastating experience of being prevented access to employment, housing or public services because of bias. Both your veto of AB-1 and related legislation regarding AIDS discrimination were based on your perception that citizens do not experience bias to a degree so significant as to need protections in the law. The evidence contained in the enclosed HRC report refutes your position.

A brief review of the statistics show an overall rise of 20 percent in investigated sexual orientation and AIDS/ARC discrimination cases, which total 137 for the entire year. AIDS/ARC formal complaints have tripled, from 20 in FY '84-85 to the 65 reported this year. Compiled statistics reflect only cases investigated fully by the Commission, and do not show all those received and handled by staff, which required only technical assistance or referral. These complaints are estimated to number well over 300 for the year. In summary, you can be assured that a large number of complaints received by HRC hold strong merit and, in fact, sexual orientation and AIDS-based discrimination clearly exists in San Francisco.

Because the HRC is one of the few administrative agencies nationwide mandated by law to address sexual orientation and AIDS/ARC discrimination, the documentation of the variety and number of bias related problems affecting our large, local lesbian/gay population is surely significant to you in guiding your judgements and statements reflecting statewide conditions. We urge you to support legislation, in the upcoming year, banning discrimination on a statewide level.

Esta Soler, Chair
Human Rights Commission
San Francisco

We Lost A Legend

★ Our fabulous, fun, live-and-let-live city lost a legend when Sol Stoumen died. Anyone who remembers the famous Black Cat bar, (I went as a teenager and drank coke at the bar), I will remember dear Sol Stoumen, the Black Cat proprietor.

Jose Sarria became a star there with his famous Sunday operas. People came from all over the country and, yes the world. Sol and his famous cafe is history at its best.

Marvin-Michel LeGrier, II
San Francisco

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WONDERFUL

Wonderful Article

★ Thanks to John Karr for his beautiful and moving *Chuck's Family* in the Feb. 5 B.A.R.

Particularly touching were references to Chuck's physical and spiritual beauty; his selflessness and sense of brotherhood. The latter is something we have all had to work on during the age of AIDS.

I was particularly pleased to see Rink's photo of Chuck, Kris Cannon and Arthur Morris. Those three are part of Rhino, an institution many of us cherish. I know Kris as Artistic Director and Arthur is warmly remembered by me for his warm and sexy voice as part of a Rhino phon-a-thon last year.

Richard Ditewig
San Francisco

'Free Up' Funds

★ The following letter was sent to Irwin Memorial Blood Bank, 270 Masonic, San Francisco, CA 94100.

Dear Director:

I keep hearing on television and radio, that you feel a major reason for the shrinking supply of donors is because people are afraid of contracting AIDS by donating.

I don't doubt there is a small number of uneducated people that are not donating because of such unfounded fears (they usually claim to have colds anyway), but I would suggest that you change your mind set — recalling that when the AIDS and blood conate was found, your organization went public asking that all "high risk" people refrain from donating blood — we did.

If you honestly look at the makeup of the blood donating population, that are Irwin clients, it becomes strongly suspect that the homophile community has sustained Irwin and, perhaps, other blood banks as well in the past.

Having been a donor for over 30 years, I have suspected this and now the numbers seem to support that hypothesis. Every time I went there I saw a lot of donors whom I knew to be members of that group.

Being a member of the homophile community, I am pleased that the reaction to the crisis has been one of caring and responsibility. In view of the incubation period involved, I encourage all high risk donors to continue in the manner they have thus far, as regards blood donation.

It alarms me that you are encountering this shortage, but without money for education, support, and research, I fear the problem is going to be one of truly Apocalyptic proportions.

I urge you, your professional association, and other health care professionals to unite and pressure the federal and state administrations to "free up" funds for these projects before it is impossible to contain. It would be presumptuous for me to attempt to enlighten you on the urgency and endemic danger to the world blood supply.

Alan Post
San Francisco

Chastity Or Coupling?

★ Among the joys of worshiping each Sunday in the redwood-crafted Victorian carpenter gothic Episcopal Church of St. James the Apostle in Gertrude Stein's Oakland neighborhood of Brooklyn was the theological awareness that the sensible Anglican Communion Christians do not think that I am called to life-long chastity because Providence granted me the gift of gayness.

Previously, at St. Leander's Church in San Leandro, whenever I heard the communal prayer for Pope John Paul II, I shuddered at the papal prescription of life-long chastity for homophile persons.

Unlike the Pope who wanted to bless me with chastity, I consequently thought that the only concern of the Episcopalian Christians was to bless me with a deeper understanding of the love of the Jesus of the gospels for everyone.

How mistaken I have been!

The Integrity Christians of the San Francisco Bay Area are requesting that I find a life-long lover, so I can experience the humanness of sexual love legitimately by being officially blessed by the Diocese of California.

Since I have never been blessed—even privately—I gather the Integrity Christians are diplomatically suggesting that I am living in sin.

Horror! A Bostonian living in sin? Why, that's unthinkable! Sin has been banned in Boston.

Perhaps, relative to me, these good Integrity Christians do not realize that few gay men are interested in a life-long commitment to a former Irish Catholic Bostonian who was blessed at birth with a three-fold sexual repression: Irishness, Roman Catholicism, and New Englandness. With that heritage it is a miracle that I'm even interested in sex!

But, miracles occasionally still happen. Just witness the daily experience of a fallible infallible Pope.

Tragically, the Integrity Christians of the San Francisco Bay Area fail to perceive that for most single gay men and women there is little difference between these two oppressions: Roman Catholic life-long chastity and proposed Anglican blessed coupling.

Perhaps my sole salvation is to beg the Integrity Christians of the San Francisco Bay Area to find me another triply sexually-repressed former Irish, Catholic Bostonian.

Anyone would do. He need not necessarily be from Roslindale—or even Irish lace curtain West Roxbury.

Meanwhile, lovely St. James Church, which was designed by San Francisco architects John Wright and George H. Sanders, celebrates the centennial of its opening on Feb. 27—both St. Leander's Day and my birthday.

But, should I risk going? Will the rector disbar me because I haven't been blessed?

Frankly, I don't need either papal chastity or Episcopalian coupling.

I just need gay liberation.

James F. Gibbons
San Leandro

Don't Say No to Gay Vets

★ Gay and lesbian veterans of all wars deserve more than a pat on the back. They deserve the promises of our politicians that there will be no cuts in VA benefits, especially now that there are bed vacancies in the VA hospitals. All veterans are entitled to occupy these beds, whether their injuries or illnesses are service connected or not.

Their VA benefit checks have been cut. They deserve the reinstatement of those cuts and benefits. These veterans, men and women, never said "no" to the call of their country, so why should our politicians say a big "no" to them in their time of need?

Ed Dollak
San Francisco

Respect Other's Rights

★ I have been reading with increasing dismay these past weeks those letters to you which object to the possibility that certain groups or individuals (e.g. the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence) may be present at possible demonstrations if the Pope visits San Francisco.

When each individual blooms and blossoms, there results a special flower and fruit. Are we then to do as Lucky's stores proclaim on their billboards and judge our fruit by its cover?

Are we to forget our herstory/history, yea even unto the present day, of the illegality, not only of being lesbian/gay, but even of "cross-dressing" itself? Those who wanted to play it safe in the suffragette movement urged women not to wear bloomers. People have been jailed for wearing pants or skirts when society deemed it inappropriate. I for one am sick and tired of playing safe . . . I supported Jesse Jackson but voted for Mondale and have got Raygun for president.

Do we ignore the daily courage of those of our community (which is a self-defined one) who confront societal prejudices directly by daring to Look Different? I give thanks, hugs, and cheers of support to my sisters and brothers who feel free to be fully and truly themselves no matter how outrageous mainstream society thinks it, for they are our pioneers, maintaining and enlarging the borders of our freedoms.

Are we to police ourselves so that we may seem "acceptable?" Who is to judge? What is acceptable? Do we come out to our parents but tell them it's OK, we still iron our shirts? Our opposition vilifies leather dykes (see LaRouche campaign propaganda, back cover photo which juxtaposed pictures of women at our Freedom/Pride Parade—another instance in which people object to visibility of our outre brothers and sisters to the media)—with a billboard about missing children . . . yes, it's true, the 64ers did that! . . . so do we write off our leather sisters and brothers because of their vulnerable visibility as politically expendable and let the LaRouchians take them away to who knows what fate?

Are we to pre-emptively censor ourselves to avoid some presumably harsher societal censorship. How will we know when we've succeeded, when to stop? Will it be when we've purged our community of all but those who could "pass" in a small town in Mississippi, only to have mainstream society come along to thank us for a job nicely done which saved them a lot of work and trouble, but which leads them to believe that since we walk like them, talk like them, even look like them we must not need any rights as lesbian/gay people after all.

I am a secretary in a Catholic school and have been told that I can't do pass at times because I dress rather "square." I tell you we all need to be as free as can be. None of us will be free, nor stay free unless we respect the rights of free expression of everyone.

Yours in solidarity, struggle, and love.

Jesse N. R. Greenman
San Francisco

ACLU Is Great

This letter was sent to Mr. Ira Glasser, American Civil Liberties Union, 132 West 43rd St., New York, NY 10035:

★ Dear Mr. Glasser:

Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, an organization of 300 physicians, applauds the American Civil Liberties Union's campaign to promote the legalization of lesbian and gay relationships. We, too, are convinced of society's need to recognize the moral and legal commitment that gay women and men may wish to make to each other. In this particularly difficult time of epidemic with its backlash of homophobia threatening our very existence, the need to legalize our commitments becomes even more apparent.

Our organization is pleased with and grateful for your continued commitment to safeguarding human rights, recognizing and addressing injustices whenever and wherever they arise.

Thank you for your courageous efforts.

Robert N. Akeley, M.D., Chair
Social Concerns Committee
Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights
San Francisco

It's The Media's Fault

★ What really bothers me about Burney Allgood's letter is that in this time of "volatile political environment" we damn well better be able to laugh and maintain a sense of humor about ourselves and where we come from. Wearing nuns' clothes plays with gender identification and questions a traditional (oppressive and patriarchal) religion.

The media are the ones who persist in focusing solely on that loud and wonderfully brash image. We need the variety of our images represented in the media. Having one repressed and denied does not do this. The subliminal suggestion that the Texas news station used is very professional. Their words may have been calm and impartial, but the image — which is what people remember — was an extreme that the media used to antagonize the viewers. The media has the responsibility to represent the news fairly and not to antagonize the public.

It is the New York Post which shows only a photo of a man wonderfully decked out as a glitzy Statue of Liberty (a liberty we have year round, not only on Pride Day) without representing any other areas of our diverse community with photos. God knows we need those photos to see other images of ourselves. What if you're not loud and brash, after all? But to reprimand the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence "or some clone derivative" for your embarrassment is irresponsible. Get over it. You cast the blame wrongly. I am sure they are fully cognizant of the media's approach to them and the effects of their actions. And it is a powerful thing that they do because its irreverence blasts apart gender and sexual expectations for men and women of all sexualities.

Children often have a lot to teach us, as does the nuns' "childish" behavior. And to answer your question, "how much longer do we have to wait for these fools to grow up."

As long as it takes for people like you to answer the questioning of ourselves that their presence raises.

April Jean Barry
San Francisco

Waterloo Of His Bigotry

★ This letter was sent to Pope John Paul II, Vatican City, Rome, Italy.

Dear Sir,

I will not, as did one of my brothers, ask that you excommunicate me, although I was baptized a Catholic. I have long since excommunicated both you and your Church. Nor do I deny God and my Lord, Christ, Jesus, as he did. For I love them with all my mind, body and soul. I have known God and God knows me.

I charge, sir, that you and by extension your church are liars and hypocrites. I attended your mass in Washington, D.C. Your homily was on the sanctity of the home and family. The priest who read from the Gospel of Matthew as justification for your remarks supposedly was reading the 19th chapter. He skipped verses 10-12. I quote them here: "The disciples said to him, 'If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is not expedient to marry.' He said to them, 'Not all men can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. For some men are born not to marry, some are made this way by others and some men forsake marriage, for the Kingdom of God. Let those accept it who can.' This clearly shows that, contrary to your remarks, marriage and family are not the ultimate purpose in life, or of sex. That priest was a hypocrite for tampering with scripture to justify what you presented. You a liar in your statements.

This fall you plan to come to San Francisco. Many of my gay brothers would prefer you not do so. I, how-

ever, think you should come. And I encourage you to challenge our right to live as God has made us, homosexuals. I throw this gauntlet in your face. Come here, denounce homosexuality. Then quote from any of the four gospels as justification for it. Give us one statement by Jesus condemning gay love. You will find nothing spoken by him that does so. To the contrary, he said, Luke 10:27, Mark 12:31, "Love your brother as your self. Treat him as the pupil of your eye." While I am aware that self-appointed spokesmen for God have, in recent years, changed the word "brother" to "neighbor."

Yes, Pope, do come to San Francisco. You will try to spread your lies, bigotry and hate. In the end, God will defeat you and all who preach hate in the name of the God who is love, both eros and agape. For if God is love no form of love can be evil. To say that is to say that there is evil in God.

"Blessed," Jesus said, "are you when men persecute and revile you for my name's sake. Yours is the Kingdom of God." I for one thank you. Your persecution and reviling of me has already propelled me into the Kingdom of God. Come, I beg you, to our city. It may well prove to be the Waterloo of your bigotry.

Raymond Thompson
San Francisco

Why No Uproar for Marcos?

★ In their reaction to the proposed visit of Pope John Paul II, your readers seem to have overlooked the fact that Pope John Paul II is the head of a duly constituted and internationally recognized independent state: the Vatican. The United States, along with other nations, maintains diplomatic relationships with the Vatican.

I noticed no similar uproar when our city cheerleader, the inimitable Mrs. Feinstein, entertained that other ruling head of state, Ferdinand Marcos.

Rights, as you keep pointing out to yourselves, should be equal among us. How does it happen, then, that you should be so interested in your own rights, but organize no similar protest against that other notorious abuser of human rights?

When Emperor Hirohito visited England in 1972, his visit was extremely unpopular. To reflect their viewpoint on the occasion of his being conducted through downtown London by Queen Elizabeth in her royal equipage, the English deserted the streets. There were no people. A cutting comment. We should do the same when the pope comes to San Francisco.

S. J. Walker
San Francisco

Warning

★ I have to relate an occurrence that happened to me and my roommate Jan. 19, 1987 (Martin Luther King's holiday) to help other stupid suckers out there like myself.

We went out late that evening to celebrate my roommate's promotion. After the bars closed (Castro), we circled the school yard (by Cala) in my car four or five times. We made contact with another guy in a new Thunderbird (dark blue). (I was procuring a date for my roommate.) We drove home (some five blocks away) and he followed us to be invited in for drinks, etc.

Well, it's 3:30 a.m. and the guy is going after me instead of my roommate and I'm inebriated by now wanting sex too, I guess or another body? Whatever, he sleeps with me, we mess around, he leaves (the same old story) except the S.O.B. took five 20s out of my wallet and two fives and two ones out of my pocket. I noticed the next morning (with a horrible hangover) and pray to God the slime only did that (credit cards, keys, etc. my life was spared).

Now you probably think, oh, I deserved it. I learned a big lesson and want to warn other trusting people what assholes exist out there. I never have that much money on me (I'm barely paying bills right now) but had been paid on Saturday cash which I couldn't deposit until Tuesday morning.

This man (white) said he was 27 years old. He bragged about his capped teeth, sugar daddy in the Oakland Hills (whose new blue Thunderbird it was, I guess). He had straight light brown hair and was tall, not fat or skinny.

I'm a resident of Duboce Park for five years, S.F. six years, 30 years old, white and did not deserve this. Please be aware of such "bad" people and be careful. There are devils in sheep's clothing out there. I feel like the biggest fool on earth, but I have enough compassion to turn other trusting people on to what exists out there. It just makes us harder, colder; it's a shame. How can people live with themselves when they steal after sleeping with somebody? Don't they have a conscience? Mark my words, people who do such things will get theirs in the end one way or another. What goes around comes around.

Walt J. Giacomazzi
San Francisco

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SERVICE: A panel with Roger Walsch, MD, PhD; Francis Vaghan, PhD; Dale Borland, PhD; Irene Smith and Christian Haren.
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Both events held at First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin (at Geary). For info call Daniel Ames, 883-6111.

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Britt Gains Support

Whether he wins or not, Sup. Harry Britt's entry into the 5th Congressional District race last week is a history-making event. For the first time, an openly gay person is running for the House of Representatives.

Though Massachusetts Rep. Gerry Studds has won re-election since being identified as a gay man, he originally went to Congress while still a closeted gay, whose sexuality was accidentally discovered later. Though he never denied his homosexuality in last year's campaign, Studds certainly didn't run as a "gay candidate."

Washington sources will tell you there are as many as a dozen closeted gays in the House and two in the Senate.

Having watched Britt's political career from its start, I have been impressed with the broad section of gays and lesbians who have put aside their past differences with Britt and have agreed to unify behind his current campaign. Most local and national gay leaders and activists seem virtually unanimous in deciding to make Britt's race a high priority.

Since Britt's formal entry into the race last week, I have spoken with a number of people who have probably never before voted for Britt who are solidly behind his Congress campaign. Gay political activists such as Jack Davis, Sal Rosselli, Howard Wallace and others who have not been Britt supporters in the past

are all lined up behind his current effort.

Duke Armstrong, an attorney who is former president of the predominantly-gay Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights (CRIR), said last week that "Harry is probably more radical than 98 percent of the gay community, but his election is very crucial. The AIDS crisis is continuing and we need a good, strong voice in Washington. That overrides all other considerations."

Getting Britt to Congress seems to have unified this city's diverse, substantial gay community and even those who will tell you they don't personally like Britt or care much for his politics are saying "it's our turn and this time we must stand behind one of our own."

One long-time lesbian activist, never known as a Britt loyalist, told me Monday that she is supporting his Congressional bid because "If successful, the Britt campaign will be a powerful expression of our community's political strength, especially just coming off our impressive victory in the No on 64 campaign."

The outpouring of interest and support for Britt from gays and lesbians around the country indicates that a Britt win would be a major morale boost to lesbians and gay men everywhere who have been discouraged and devastated by the continuing AIDS epidemic.



Sup. Harry Britt seems to be developing wide-based support. (Photo: Savage Photography)

Most local political observers will tell you that Harry Britt has to be the leading contender in the race, which also includes Supervisors Carol Ruth Silver, Bill Maher, Doris Ward and Democratic party fundraiser Nancy Pelosi. In a multi-candidate special election such as this, the candidate with the most solid base of committed votes can win, possibly with as little as 25-30 percent of the Democratic vote.

Realistically, Harry Britt goes into this contest with a bloc of votes among gays and other progressive voters who have consistently voted for him in previous elections, meaning, that if the Britt campaign can turn out his already committed voters, he is likely to win the April 7 election. Britt's campaign manager,

Dick Pabich, told the Bay Area Reporter this week that their campaign's major efforts will be to get gay and progressive voters to vote by absentee ballot, so that Britt goes into election day with a majority of votes "in the bank."

Pabich says that although their campaign is likely to be outspent by Pelosi, the Britt people expect to raise nearly \$400,000, which Pabich feels is adequate to win, adding that "our campaign will be much more efficient than other campaign organizations and we will have a large number of talented activists who work for us for no pay."

The election is Tuesday, April 7, and if no candidate wins 51 percent of the vote, which is unlikely, the top vote-getter in both the Democratic and Republican party will meet in an early June run-off.

The jokes and remarks continued around City Hall this week and City Attorney Louise Renne, who made a rather untimely bid for Mayor Feinstein's job (untimely in that the mayor hadn't decided to give up the job yet) was the butt of most of them. No sooner had the word gotten around that Feinstein was "taking another look" at the 5th district race than Clint Reilly, Renne's political guru, had sent the very-ambitious new City Attorney running off to Sacramento to try to cut some deals with Assemblymembers Willie Brown and Art Agnos to help get her (Renne) appointed as interim mayor in case Feinstein were to win the Congressional election.

Renne's naked political move was a bit much for the mayor and all hell broke loose. The root of the problem apparently is this — only a few months ago the mayor appointed her "long-time friend" Renne to a plush job just down the hall from the mayor's office — City Attorney at a \$100,000-a-year salary.

Some of the mayor's close associates will tell you that Renne, in order to get the City Attorney's appointment, assured the mayor that she could keep her ego and political ambitions in check long enough not to run for mayor this year. As one mayoral aide put it, "Dianne does not appoint people to \$100,000-a-year positions only to see them turn their back on the job and run for yet another job in a few months."

Renne, of course, claims no such agreement was ever made with Feinstein. At any rate, Renne appeared to "be rubbing the mayor's nose in it," as one City

Hall veteran put it, and "you don't get away with that from Dianne." Whether or not there was such an understanding (that Renne would be satisfied as City Attorney) most City Hall observers that I spoke with now say that Renne (and probably Clint Reilly) tipped their hands a little too hastily.

Maintaining all along that she only wanted to step in to help alleviate a touchy situation, Renne (Reilly?) decided that she should take advantage of the temporary City Hall confusion caused by Feinstein's renewed Congressional interest to promote her own political agenda.

Nothing wrong with being ambitious, you say? Of course not. But only a couple of days before Renne had gone to Feinstein's home to urge her to run for Congress. Ha! Upon learning that Renne was now busy telling the editorial boards of the dailies that she wanted Feinstein's job, one of the mayor's people fumed that "while pretending to be above it all politically, she is sitting in an office in Sacramento, cooling her heels, waiting for a chance to kiss Willie's rear — does anyone now wonder why she was at Dianne's house urging her to run for Sala's seat?"

Meanwhile, Renne has apparently shown her true political colors and the snickering continued: "She should fire Clint," said one, "Richie Ross could have done that much for her." "Blond Ambition" jokes were hitting the gossip columns, and one of her former female colleagues on the board was joking to everyone that "I really think she wants to use the mayor's office to run against Pete Wilson next year." As one of the Congressional candidates put it: "It's actually quite funny — Louise running off to Sacramento to collaborate with Agnos to stop Jack Molinari? She's shown she can wheel-and-deal like the rest of them."

The Burt Bacharach-Carole Bayer Sager song "That's What Friends Are For" has raised \$750,000 to date to fight AIDS and the song is expected to win a Grammy later this month.

Actress Jane Fonda and husband Assemblyman Tom Hayden telling their San Francisco friends they will be very active in the Hart for President effort. Hayden, incidentally, attended a dinner in L.A. last week at which Mario Cuomo spoke. Asked to comment on Cuomo, Hayden said, "He's very Zen. He runs by not running. In fact, he creates

(Continued on next page)

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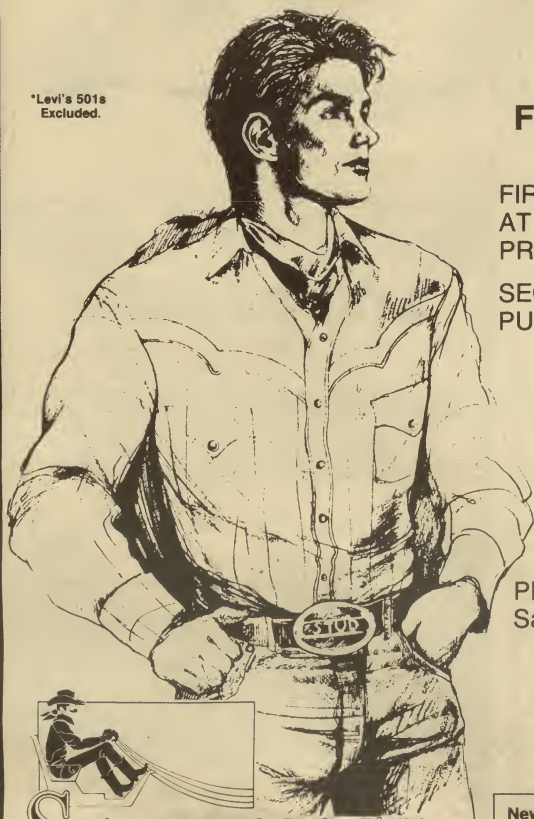
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Staying On Alone

On Jan. 31, 1986, like many men before him, Sean Martinfield lost his lover, Douglas Wright, to AIDS. But unlike anyone before him, Sean was so devastated by the loss that he placed an ad in the Bay Area Reporter seeking others in his situation.

"I knew I needed help," states Martinfield, "and there was nowhere for me to go, at least not where I would be comfortable. I didn't want to go to a drop-in grief clinic where people were suffering from various kinds of loss. I wanted to be with people who had had my experience—that of a lover who had been the primary care giver, who had had a significant relationship that continued to grow and flourish in the face of death, and who now had to deal with recovery and survival."

Sean and Douglas met in Washington, D.C. in 1981. Sean, a singer and voice teacher in San Francisco, was on tour with the Gay Men's Chorus at the time, and Douglas, the editor and owner of a gay publication called Out Magazine, had chosen to interview him.

"The next thing I knew," recalls Martinfield, "I was moving to Washington to be with him. It was instant recognition." Later, the couple moved to San Francisco and were married in the Metropolitan Community Church.

"That was the degree to which we were committed," continues Sean, "to exchange vows in front of a minister and witnesses, and to say, 'Until death do us part.' And guess what? It did."

As soon as Martinfield placed his ad the phone started ringing "off the hook." The first meeting was held in Martinfield's home in late April, and four people

attended—about a third of the people who had called. They discussed mutual concerns—Will I be alone for the rest of my life? How do I get out and meet people again? How long do I have to live? They agreed to meet once a week on Monday nights.

As time passed, Martinfield was besieged by hundreds of phone calls from other men whose lovers had died, and the size of the group grew from four to approximately 20 each week.

"I assume they come because they feel the same sense of trust that I do," states Martinfield. "It's very difficult to make that first phone call to someone you don't know. But most find it's worth it."

The primary issue at the Monday night meetings is loneliness, naturally enough. "The people who come here intensely loved their partners," explains Martinfield. "They had absolute commitment to that agreement. Some of them were together for 18 years. Now that their lovers are gone, they are suffering from anger, terror, and vulnerability. They need to find a reason to get out of bed in the morning, a reason to be here. They need to learn that their own lives are not tied up solely in the identity of another person."

But loneliness is not the only issue, continues Martinfield. "We start questioning what our lives are about. We were told certain things as children—mainly that everything would be wonderful and peaceful. But that's not the case. That's all been taken away. Consequently, our entire future has to be reexamined. And we're angry about that. I was always told, for instance, that I would live to a ripe old age. But to date I've lost 56 people to AIDS. If I should have an old age,

it's not going to be about reminiscing with my friends about the past, that's for sure. Frankly, I have just as much fear about growing old as I do about getting AIDS."

People seek out this particular group for several reasons. The main one is that no one else understands what they feel, according to Martinfield—neither their best friends, their parents, nor their pastors. "At least here they don't have to explain what it means to have had a lover. The common ground is there to begin with. They know that they're not alone. So they can proceed to talk about what it is they're afraid of or angry about. They can begin to spiritually heal themselves."

The healing process takes a long time, admits Martinfield. "A year later we are still talking about things we could or should have done, things we are still coming to grips with. It's only been recently, for example, that I've come to a position of being at total peace with Douglas' parents. I harbor no anger toward them anymore for their lack of participation during our entire relationship, let alone during the death experience. This has happened only because of the group, and it's an amazing accomplishment."

At times, Martinfield fears what will happen to the group if he does find the peace and serenity he seeks. "My fear is that no one else will pick up the responsibility," he explains. "Nevertheless, I'll stop when I feel the need to stop, and right now, I don't feel that need. The group is the only thing that is working in my life right now. Nothing else is as guaranteed. I can absolutely bank on hearing the truth then because these people have nothing to lose. As far as they're concerned, they've lost everything already."

Perhaps not quite everything. "Well, I have been dating someone lately," Martinfield admits. "It's as much of a surprise to me as it is to my friends that I've found room in my life to experience this possibility. I won't say I'm hearing wedding bells, but it's very nice to know that sometimes my thoughts do tend toward the future, that I sometimes envision seeing a roof over my head with someone else." ●

Shop Gay, Buy Gay: Give 'em the Business.

Kopp at Alliance

The Bay Area Non-Partisan Alliance will host as its guest speaker Hon. Quentin Kopp, Senator, 8th District, at its civic breakfast Friday, Feb. 27, 8 a.m., at the Hyatt Regency, Palm Court A.

Reservation required by Feb. 24 (\$15 per person). Mail check or call Don Disler at 392-2800. ●

MAKE DINNER MAKE FRIENDS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

AIDS is a hard fact of life for many of us in San Francisco, but we don't have to be helpless in the face of it. Since 1983, volunteers of the Shanti Practical Support Program have been making a difference. As a Practical Support Volunteer your gift of time means cooked meals, clean laundry and a clean place to live for someone with AIDS. It also means making friends and knowing how much you matter.

Tip the scales.

Be a Shanti Practical Support Volunteer.
CALL 558-9644



SHANTI PROJECT

Friday

(Continued from previous page)
demand by reducing supply. It's Zen Machiavellianism." (Hello, Tom?)

Service Employees International Union, Local 87, representing some 4,000 San Francisco janitors, formally endorsed Harry Britt for Congress last week.

If you don't think Mayor Diane Feinstein is truly a national political celebrity, take a look at last Friday's New York Times. The Times featured a story, complete with photo, announcing

that the mayor had decided not to run for Congress. One has to wonder what kind of coverage she would have gotten had she said she was running.

But there's good news from Tulsa. Television evangelist Oral Roberts said this week that he'll raise the \$4.5 million he says is needed to spare his life. "We're headed towards getting our needs met," he said Sunday on his Expect A Miracle TV show. Roberts had said that God will end his life next month if he doesn't collect the money for the Oral Roberts medical facility. Last month's contribution: \$1.6 million. ●

LIFE AT THE CLOSET DOOR



CELEBRATE FEBRUARY!
at
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF S.F.

February 22: 10:30 am - Morning Worship
with Holy Communion
Sermon: Rev. Jane Spahr
7:00 pm - Evening Worship
Sermon: Rev. Jim Mitulski
February 25: 7:30 pm - Womanspirit Meeting
7:30 pm - Men Together Meeting



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An Evening of Hypnosis and Trance Work
Sunday, Mar. 8th, 7-9:30pm, \$10. Come and explore
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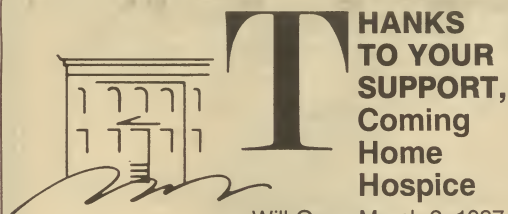
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10AM

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at Most Holy Redeemer
Church. A reception follows.

1-5PM

OPEN HOUSE TOUR

at 115 Diamond Street.

6-8PM

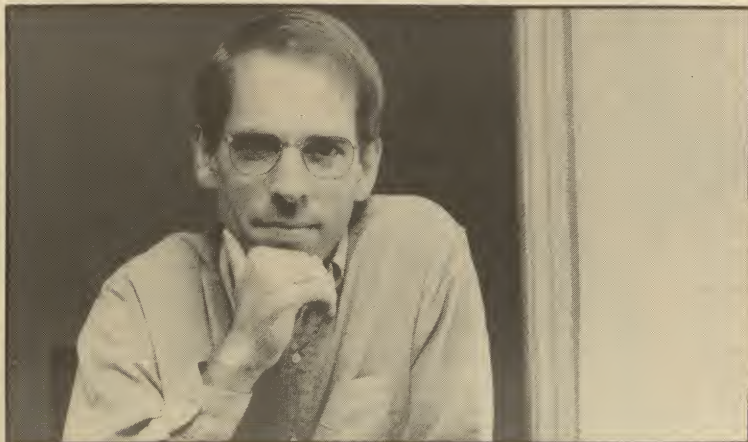
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- Everyone is invited to join us in
thanking our wonderful volunteers.
- Please bring food or a non-
alcoholic beverage to share.

For More Information, Please Call 285-5615, ext. 215.

After March 2nd, Coming Home Hospice will not be open to the public.

NATIONAL/WORLD NEWS



R. Foster Winans

New York Wants Winans' \$\$\$

ALBANY, N.Y. — A New York State board
has demanded that the publisher of R. Foster
Winans' *Trading Secrets: Seduction and Scandal*
at the *Wall Street Journal* turn over any
profits from the book to an escrow account for
the benefit of crime victims.

Winans, a gay man who wrote a column
about stock market sales called "Heard on the
Street," was convicted of 59 counts of conspir-
acy and stock fraud in 1985. He was charged
with leaking inside information about stock
market sales he received to a broker, in relation

to his column. Winans later wrote a book about
the scandal. He is appealing his conviction.

The State Crimes Victim Board issued an
emergency order on Jan. 22 to present St. Mar-
tin's Press, Winans' publisher, from paying
Winans \$10,000 in royalties. State law requires
that any profits gained by a convicted criminal
from books, articles or film scripts about his or
her crime be placed in an escrow account for
the benefit of crime victims.

—Associated Press

**Chi-Town Candidates
Court Gay Votes**

CHICAGO — It appears as
though the gay and lesbian vote
could be a "swing vote" when
Chicago Mayor Harold Wash-
ington and former mayor Jane
Byrne square off in next Tues-
day's mayoral primary.

Just how important is the
gay and lesbian vote? Well, the
Chicago Tribune reported in a
lengthy feature article that both
Washington and Byrne are step-
ping up efforts to court the gay
and lesbian vote.

Wendy Cohen, an aide to 43rd
ward alderman Martin Oberman,
said gay voters "definitely" are
viewed as pivotal in the election.

—The Washington Blade

**Crucifix, Lovers
Rile Up
Sacto's Fundies**

SACRAMENTO — You have
to feel a little bit for the Sacra-
mento Union, the city's conser-
vative newspaper. The paper
tried to get a little controversial
the other day and paid for it
through the teeth from the fun-
damentalists.

The Union published a series
of articles called "Love Stories"
prior to Valentine's Day. One of
the articles was about Boyce Hin-
man and Larry Beatty, gay lovers
for 17 years. Besides the fact that
these two men are — gasp —
homosexuals — another terrible
thing about the article was that
it showed the two with arms
around each other while posing
underneath a crucifix!

That was too much of a cross
to bear for the good folks of
Sacktoftomatoes. Hundreds of
phone calls came into the news-
paper's office protesting the ar-
ticle. Letters to the editor threat-
ened eternal damnation, excom-
munication or anything worse
they could think of.

"I would say I was greatly
distressed, bordering on anger,"
said Kathy Twisselman, a mem-

ber of the Community Covenant
Church of Rocklin. "I told the
pastor's wife they might as well
take it off the wall, put it on the
floor and trample on it."

Protestant fundamentalists
weren't the only ones getting in
shots at Hinman, Beatty and the
Union. Catholic fundies also
threw in their two cents.

Rev. Charles McDermott, vicar
episcopal for theological affairs
in the Catholic diocese of Sacra-
mento, said about the crucifix,
"If the presentation of the pic-
ture is intended to suggest that
the blessing of God rests upon
people engaging in homosexual
behavior, then we would disagree
entirely." McDermott finds it ac-
ceptable instead if the suggestion
is that the persons are turning to
God for help overcoming faults.

Union editor Bruce Winters
defended the article when he
said, "We are a mirror, not a
microscope. Merely printing the
story doesn't mean we support its
content."

—The Sacramento Union

**Arkansas Nixes
Safe Sex Education**

LITTLE ROCK — The
state of Arkansas lashed out at
safe sex education when it recent-
ly refused to approve a State
Health Department contract with
the Arkansas AIDS Foundation
to provide risk-reduction educa-
tion to gay and bisexual males in
the state.

The ironic thing about the
state's action is that the contract
does not involve actual state
funds. The \$8,800 contract was
part of a federal grant the Health
Dept. received from the Centers
for Disease Control. Even though
no state revenues are involved,
the legislative subcommittee re-
views any contract or expenditure
by a state agency in excess of
\$5,000.

—Gaze of Memphis

**Docs Want More
AIDS Ed. For Teens**

NEW YORK — Almost
eight out of every ten doctors ad-
vocate special high school classes
on how to avoid AIDS and other
sexually-transmitted diseases.
This was just one of many results
revealed in a poll of 145,000
physicians in MD Magazine.

The official figure for the
physicians advocating the special
classes was 79 percent. Almost
the same amount, 78 percent,
favored confidential antibody
testing and contact tracing for
"high risk" individuals.

Other results of the poll in-
clude:

- Close to 48 percent of Amer-
ican physicians in private prac-
tice have encountered one or
more AIDS patients.

- As a specialty, psychiatrists
encounter AIDS patients the
most often. Sixty-five percent of
the psychiatrists have worked
with one or more AIDS patients.

- Fifty-one percent recom-
mend an HIV test as a prerequi-
site for obtaining a marriage
license.

- Twenty-five percent suggest
providing drug users with steril-
ized hypodermic needles.

- Seventy-eight percent said
they would not disguise the cause
of death on a death certificate if
AIDS is the cause.

When asked about antibody
testing of specific groups, 43 per-
cent favored testing in the mili-
tary, 40 percent for dentists, 37
percent for doctors and hospital
employees, 34 percent for food
handlers and 31 percent for life
insurance applicants.

- Forty-five percent would not
accept hospital blood supplies if
a member of their family were
facing major elective surgery in
which a transfusion would likely
be required. Nine percent could
not decide on that issue.

—The New York Native

Trusts Protect Survivors

by Charles Butler

Q: I'm a person with AIDS trying to get my affairs in order. I want to provide financial support for my mother through the use of a trust which would provide her with at least \$1,000 per month. Neither my lover, who is my executor, nor myself are sophisticated in financial matters. How should we proceed?

A: There are many types of trusts available to you depending on your personal objectives and financial situation. One alternative is the grantor lead trust. The GLT provides the grantor (you) with an annuity interest or income interest for a period of time. The remaining interest passes to your designated beneficiaries.

For example, John has assets of \$100,000 and wishes to give \$1,000 per month to his mother. He places the \$100,000 of income-producing assets into a GLT. John retains the right to all trust income for a set period of time, say 10 years. After 10 years or in the event of his death, whichever comes first, all trust assets are paid out to John's mother.

There are drawbacks to this type of trust for a person with AIDS. First of all, if the grantor dies while income is still payable, the entire value of the property in trust will be includible in his estate. For individuals with estates in excess of \$600,000, this is a major drawback. Generally estates in excess of \$600,000 are subject to federal estate tax. One important use of trusts is to remove the assets from the estate for estate tax purposes.

Another drawback is that the grantor cannot have any control over the time or manner in which the beneficiaries will enjoy the trust corpus without causing the entire value of the property in trust to be included in his estate. In other words, if mother is not financially sophisticated or cannot otherwise manage her own funds, then this type of trust may not be appropriate.

A more suitable type of trust is called an inter vivos or living trust. It is a trust created during the lifetime of the grantor (the person creating the trust). It can be established for a specific period of time, or it can continue after the death of the grantor. It

may be revocable or irrevocable. A revocable trust is one which the grantor retains the right to change the terms of the trust, or revoke the trust altogether. The irrevocable trust, once funded, cannot be changed and so it is less flexible.

However, assets in an irrevocable trust, (also called the trust corpus), are not included in the estate of the grantor if the grantor does not retain a right to income during his lifetime or the right to use or enjoy the property.

However, suppose the person with AIDS in our example was not concerned about saving estate taxes, (perhaps his estate is a modest \$300,000), then this type of trust could be ideal.

Here's an example of how it would work. John has assets of \$100,000 and wishes to give \$1,000 per month to his mother. He places the \$100,000 of income-producing assets into an inter vivos trust for the benefit of his mother and retains a life income interest. In other words, as long as John lives, he will receive the income from the assets. After his death, the assets will be paid out to his

mother by the trustee. If John desires, he can instruct the trustee to pay current income only. Alternatively, he could instruct the trustee to pay out a percentage of assets or even a set dollar amount.

A special type of trust called a standby trust is similar to the revocable living trust. The trust is set up in advance of disability. Once the grantor is no longer able to manage the assets for himself, the trust activates and the trustee becomes responsible for asset management. The trust can provide for a takeover when the grantor becomes physically or mentally disabled.

One more important type of trust is called a testamentary trust. This trust is created by the instructions contained in the grantor's will. If for some reason the grantor is unwilling or unable to part with assets during lifetime, this can be a solution.

Finally, many special provisions can be included in a trust to provide flexibility. After all, trusts usually last at least ten years or more and a lot can change in a decade. Here are a few common provisions:

An "income sprinkling clause" allows the trustee to distribute or accumulate funds in his own discretion to the named beneficiaries. This is used when there are multiple beneficiaries.

A "power of beneficiary to invade principal" allows the beneficiary to withdraw corpus subject to certain limitations.

A "spendthrift provision" would prevent the beneficiary from assigning the corpus to creditors.

These are just a few of the many types of trusts and provisions available. Trusts are very complex legal instruments which must be drafted by an attorney. When properly drafted and funded, trusts can protect you during your lifetime, save estate tax and probate costs, and ultimately benefit those about whom you care the most.

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Teen Acquitted In Murder Case

BROOKLYN — To the parishioners at St. Dominic's Church, he was known simply as "Father Fred." Rev. Frederick Strianese was a kindly man and a good priest at St. Dom's from 1972-76.

After his stint at St. Dominic's, Strianese went on to work at Catholic Charities. That is, until last May 10.

On that night, Strianese was alleged to have approached a black teenager for sex near the Brooklyn waterfront. Andre Nichols, 19, claims he was defending himself when he pulled out a handgun and blew Strianese away.

And these days, the parishioners at St. Dom's are in shock because a jury believed Nichols did act in self-defense. He was cleared of two counts of murder and one count of possession of a weapon. While Nichols' supporters chanted "We love you, we love you," the relatives and friends of Frederick Strianese just shook their heads in sorrow.

"This guy (Nichols) is nothing but a born liar," said Anthony Strianese, a brother, "and the jury decides to believe him. Whatever my brother did, he didn't deserve this."

"It just doesn't seem right; it doesn't seem fair," said Barbara Tuozzo, secretary to Msgr. Dino Zeni, pastor of St. Dominic's Church. "With a decision like that, anybody can just go out and kill anyone."

Nichols' attorney, Alton Maddox, had argued that the 280-pound Strianese lured Nichols into his car around 1 a.m. The priest allegedly offered the youth \$10 to have oral sex with him. Nichols admitted that he originally accepted the idea, but became frightened and begged Strianese to unlock the car doors and windows and let him go. When this didn't happen, according to Nichols, he pulled a gun on Strianese and shot him.

—New York Daily News

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The Fairies at a gathering.

Fairyland

Fairies Buy 80-Acre Farm For Home In Southern Oregon

by Brian Jones

The Fairies, after flitting hither and thither about the glens and glades of the West Coast for lo these dozen years, have conjured up a home. The Fairy land is an 80-acre farm at Wolf Creek, Oregon, 430 miles north of San Francisco. Those magic images of Lincoln and Grant which come in grey and green came forth like the wee people from the boglands with the first warm breeze of spring.

In two lunar cycles, the Fairies raised \$30,000 toward the total \$50,000 purchase price. The Fairies closed on the property last month. At one Fairy circle in late November, \$20,000 was raised in two hours, Earth time.

It is probably the largest land purchase ever by a gay group. This is a superlative about which most Fairies could not possibly care less, thank you. Dollars are linear and "largest land purchase" is a concept laden with the kind of hetero baggage that most Fairies would leave sitting at the train station as they rushed away on the Re-Orient Express, their damp pantyhose flapping from the windows of the club car.

"Our energy has finally crystallized," said Mica Kindman, president of the Fairy land trust, Nomenus, which executed the purchase. "The Fairies have been networking for years, getting to know each other, but running through it all was the need to have a place to call our own."

"Whenever we gathered, we talked about the need to have a

home. Now we do," Kindman said.

JUNGLE RED

Fairies emerged in the mid-70s to form a spiritual community around being gay. The Fairy Way is the antithesis to, and the antidote for, Creeping Clonism, the spinal disorder of Butch Posturing, and that type of paralyzing fear often misdiagnosed as "Attitude."

The Fairy faith is a form of dualism often called "two-faithed." It is a mix of paganism and camp, the sacred and the profane, unconditional love and unconditional drag. Certain Fairy shamans have unlocked the power of Jungle Red lipstick and are even now conducting underground tests in the Nevada desert.

The Fairy Way is summed up in the three words:

Love love love.

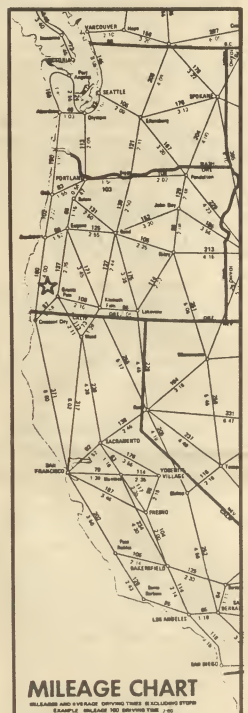
Today in Northern California there are 1,200 active Fairies, according to Baba RAM ROM, keeper of the Holy Database. Some people you would never expect, like political activists and editors, swath themselves in organza, assume Fairy names such as Fabu and Oola, and dance howling in the moonlight.

Your next door neighbor may be a Fairy. You may be a Fairy and not know it yet.

TURNED AWAY

Fairies gather in circles, usually weekly, to do Fairy things. There are Fairy parties and special events, all of which are announced on Tele-Fairy (648-6064). You can always tell a Fairy but you can't tell her much.

The alpha and the omega of the Fairy experience are Fairy



MILEAGE CHART

The star is Wolf Creek.

gatherings, usually held twice yearly. The Fairies camp on the land, but most of the Fairies don't stay in tents.

The most recent gathering was Blossom of Bone II in October, which attracted 230 Fairies for 10 days to the hill country at the southeastern rim of the Napa Valley. The event, also known as the "Get Over It Gathering," demonstrated how Fairydom works — and why Fairies need a home.

The Fairies created a city on bare land. The non-structure of non-governance was something called "organic anarchy" which means nobody, not even everybody, can tell anybody what to do. Participants do get to bitch, though.

Out of this sprang a plumbing system for drinking water and another for hot showers, a kitchen, a cavernous Blue Wave tent for 150 people (or 300 Fairies) and of course a drag trailer. All the meals were served on time.

There were no radios, no electric lights, no newspapers (a sign of health), no chairs and often, no clothes. And when it was all over there was no litter. No lie.

But painful schism split the gathering at mid-week. Because the land was rented, a horrible

(Continued on page 16)



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Fairyland

(Continued from page 14)

aspect of the Other World — insurance — cast a pall like Hekita over the affair. There was a limit of 170 people according to the insurance.

This led to some Fairies being turned away by mid-week, when the gathering swelled to more than 200 people. For a community based on unconditional love, turning away "Fairy Brothers" was a heart-rending experience. It was an experience which also threatened to rend the gathering.

Although that problem was solved (the gathering was again opened to all), it became clear that more than ever, Fairies needed their own land. The growing numbers of those joining the widening circle of Fairies made it likely that even worse problems of limitations would arise in the future, unless the Fairies found a home.

PERFECT SETTING

That home was found in November when a member of the Fairies decided to sell his 80-acre farm because of his illness.

The farm at Wolf Creek, Oregon has twice been the site of Fairy gatherings and many Fairies considered it the best site ever for the events.

"The central portion of the property is a single, large, flat meadow, estimated up to 40 acres, in the southern portion of which there is a large, umbrella-shaped landmark maple tree," the Nomenus description said. "Several larger swimming holes are within reasonable walking distance . . ."

The first small gathering of Fairies on the site took place in 1976. Harry Hay of Los Angeles, a founder of the Mattachine Society and later a founding Fairy, expressed his love of the Wolf Creek land — what he called "Creekland" — in a Nov. 6 letter regarding the land purchase.

"Over all those years since that light-headed Summer of 1976, I've carried a vision of Creekland as the dream ideal for the Fairy Sanctuary. And whenever I'd share my vision of what the Fairy Sanctuary would be like, I'd describe Creekland," Hay wrote.

"So when we finally were at Creekland this August (1986), Fairy brothers would come up to me and say — 'When you described your vision of the Sanctuary was this the place?' — and every time I could smile and hug

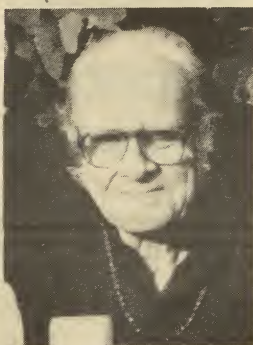
house on the farm was fire-bombed by perpetrators unknown. But in the aftermath of that attack, "relations with neighbors improved as the right of farm residents to their own lifestyle was supported and defended," said the Nomenus history of the farm.

Now, Fairies are circling to envision how they will relate to the land. A work gathering is set for this spring to prepare for a grand gathering this summer. Any plans will have to include the will of the land itself, said Mica Kindman.

"We are engaging in a relationship with this piece of Earth, and this piece of Earth has energies and opinions of its own. So we need to listen to what the land has to say," said Kindman.

"The reason you engage in a long-term relationship with the land," Kindman said, "is the same reason you engage in a long-term relationship with a person — to dig deeper into its character and personality."

It seemed like the marriage of Fairies and Wolf Creek was a match simmered at the hearth-fire of Vesta. Over the mountains at the Oregon border, one could fairly see mother Nature calling



Looking out over the meadow and the adequate comfyness that some 200 Faeries had made for themselves and for each other around the barn, and seeing my beloved Faerie Family all together and loving themselves and each other and loving Creekland for holding them so lightly and so securely, I felt that I too had come home at last.

— Harry Hay, describing the farm at Wolf Creek

The farm is 20 miles northwest of Grants Pass in southern Oregon, about five miles from Interstate 5 and midway between San Francisco and Seattle. Seattle is home to several hundred Northwest area Fairies.

The Nomenus land trust described Wolf Creek Farm as "a large, bowl-shaped private valley, with wooded hills on three sides . . . Wolf Creek, a year-round stream, runs through the property . . . The creek water is not potable but there is a potable spring.

them and say, yes."

The land is almost as old as the Fairy movement. The 1976 gathering was styled "Faggots and Class Struggle" and the magazine for rural gays, R.F.D., was published at Wolf Creek for issues 7 through 16.

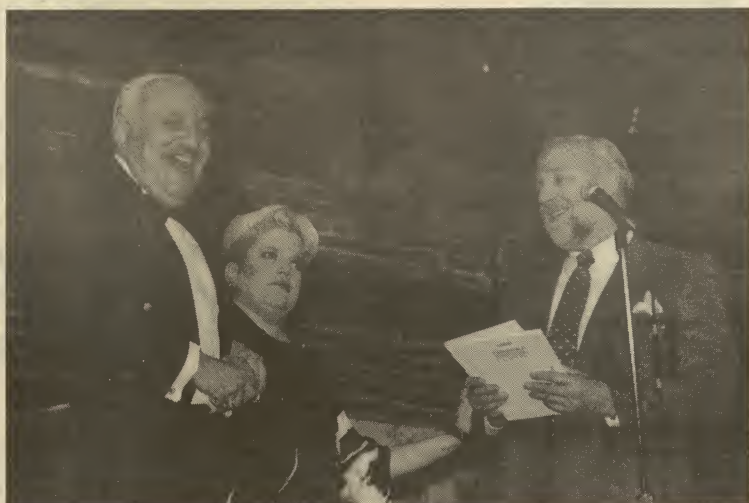
A resident community of a half-dozen to a dozen people lived on the land through the mid-'80s, and during the entire period, a resident nun, Asunta, served as caretaker.

In 1979, the original small

her Fairies home — yodeling "Yoo, Hoo!" and waving an enormous mauve hanky which looked, to the untrained eye, like a fog bank at sunset.

Miss Mary-Louise contributed to this report because it pleased her to do so.

* I made up the part about Nevada. ●



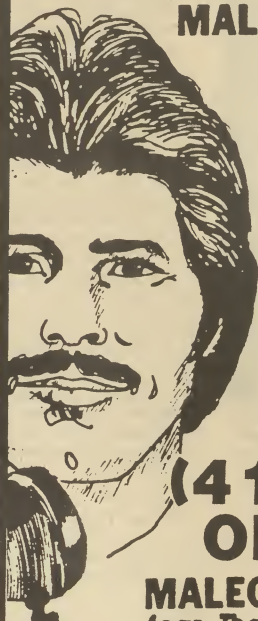
Mr. Marcus and Sharon McNight were made honorary co-chairs of the AIDS Emergency Fund Monday night. Fund president Hank Cook has just informed them they will be expected at most of the 47 events planned this year.
(Photo: R. Pruzan)

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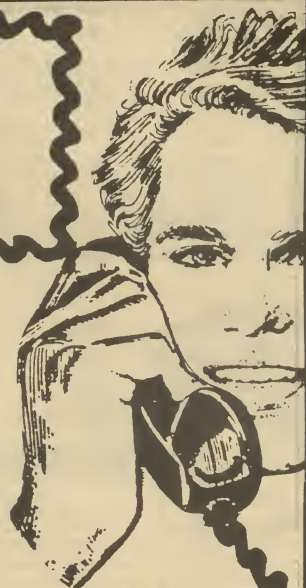
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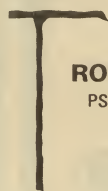
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NATIONAL CONDOM WEEK — George Valdez, S.F. AIDS Foundation volunteer, with strips of condoms hanging from his belt, hands out condom-laden balloons for Valentine's Day on Castro Street. (B.A.R. Photo/Brian Jones)

Cable Car Show Features Music

The entertainment lineup for the 1987 Cable Car Awards and Show has been confirmed. Jeanie Tracy, Teresa Trull, Leola Jiles, Shawn Benson, The Blazing Redheads, and Menage will be performing at the event, to be held Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Giftcenter Pavilion. In addition, Gail Wilson and the San Francisco Tap Troupe will be performing with City Swing in the world premiere of two production numbers.

The finale promises to be a knockout featuring a number of surprise appearances. Wayne Love of City Swing is musical director.

The Cable Car Awards, established 13 years ago to recognize outstanding achievements of and contributions to the San Francisco Bay Area lesbian and gay community, continues in its tradition of presenting the most outstanding and representative entertainment our community has to offer.

Jeanie Tracy was the headliner at I. Magnin's Raise the Roof benefit, an AIDS fundraiser. She recently completed six weeks on Star Search, placing her in the semi-finals, and was selected to replace Jennifer Holliday (*Dreamgirls*) in *Sing Mahalia Sing*. She is best known locally for her work with Sylvestre and the Two Tons as well as her solo appearances. Jeanie is well known in the industry for her background vocal work with Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston and Jeffrey Osborne, among others. Her sizzling version of "Don't Leave Me This Way" won last year's Cable Car Award as Outstanding Record of the Year, her second consecutive win.

Teresa Trull is nominated this year for Outstanding Record, Recording Artist and Entertainer of the Year. Her latest release, "A Step Away," has received critical acclaim in such industry publications as *Billboard* and *Cashbox*, leaving Teresa poised on the verge of major commercial success.

Leola Jiles, nominated this year for Outstanding Cabaret Performer, is the recipient of both the Cabaret Gold and Golden Gate Awards for Entertainer of the Year. Her rousing rendition of "Reach for the Sky," the Gay Games anthem, was one of the highlights of the Opening Cere-

monies last August. She has appeared at the Great American Music hall, Kimball's, and has been a frequent performer at AIDS benefits all over the Bay Area.

The Blazing Redheads have attracted a lot of attention in the year they have been together, which has ultimately resulted in their nomination for Entertainer of the Year. The Redheads' music — a driving and progressive fusion of Latin, jazz and rock — is original, with a few unique arrangements of select tunes (like the "I Love Lucy" theme).

Stamp Out AIDS

Broadway Producer Kicks Off Campaign

John Glines, Broadway producer of the Tony Award-winning *Torch Song Trilogy* and last year's Drama Desk winner *As Is*, is spearheading a national fundraising campaign to help the growing number of people with AIDS.

Glines is the project director of Stamp Out AIDS, a campaign to sell stamps similar to Christmas and Easter seals, to raise funds for organizations which directly serve people with AIDS. The first issue of stamps, selling in sheets of six for \$1, were designed by New York artist Marty Luko. Future issues will be designed by such well-known artists as David Hockney, Don Bacardy and Jedd Garet.

"I wanted to create an affordable way for everyone to contribute to this vital cause," Glines said. "For just one dollar everyone can help. Magnify one person's dollar by hundreds of thousands of concerned citizens, and you can imagine the difference it will make." His goal is to raise a million dollars with the first issue

Only in Frisco

The San Francisco Fair is looking for new contest ideas for 1987. All Bay Area residents are invited to put on their creative thinking caps and come up with an original "only in San Francisco" competition, which will then be produced as part of the annual city fair. Cash prizes of up to \$300 will be awarded to the top three ideas selected by a panel of fair judges.

The San Francisco Fair is nationally known for its zany urban competitions, from a parking space race to a fog calling contest. The Fair instituted its "Contest for a Contest" in 1983 and has received such great ideas as "fog calling," "The Financial District Strut," and last year's "Herb Caen Write-Alike Contest." After a one-year hiatus, the contest for contest ideas is back and fair organizers look forward to the public input.

The deadline for submitting ideas to the "Contest for a Contest" is Mar. 10. Contestants may enter as many ideas as they can dream up. Entries must be type-written or legibly handwritten and mailed to the S.F. Fair Contest Office at 255 Channel Street, San Francisco 94107. Additional information may be obtained by calling 557-9755.

The Cable Car Awards continues in its tradition of presenting the most outstanding and representative entertainment our community has to offer.

The S.F. Tap Troupe and City Swing featuring Gail Wilson (nominated for Entertainer of the Year) will perform two production numbers, including the finale, which is based on revival meeting music from the films of the '40s. This world premiere performance includes a number of surprise appearances that promise to make it an absolute show-stopper.

A few tickets remain for the event, and can be purchased at all Headlines stores.

'Special Fees' For AIDS Cases?

Some S.F. Funeral Parlors Charge Extra

by George Mendenhall

The New York Supreme Court has denied a challenge made by a New York City funeral parlor which had claimed the city's Commission on Human Rights did not have a right to investigate its policies. The court also established that a family member or life partner may file a complaint as a "person aggrieved" and ruled that a deceased person's claim of discrimination may be extended beyond death.

Judge W. J. Schackman, speaking for the court, said that "there is adequate precedent for affording the individual dignity and freedom from discrimination not only in those activities and services performed during one's life, but also in those activities and services performed at one's death."

Charges against three funeral homes were filed by the NYC Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) with the commission. They were accused of giving special treatment to those with AIDS—overcharging, denying of embalming or viewing, insistence upon expensive and unnecessary "precautions" such as a sealed or glass covered coffins. Two funeral homes agreed to halt their discriminatory practices but one, Dimiceli and Sons, refused to settle and challenged the commission's jurisdiction.

The commission said in its "victory" statement that it does not believe there is widespread discrimination in the handling of AIDS cases in New York City. It recognized that the NYC Metropolitan Funeral Directors Association has circulated AIDS information to the city's uninformed funeral industry. GMHC said NYC funeral parlors are increasingly providing a full range of services for those with AIDS.

Atty. Mitchell Karp, AIDS assistant with the NYC commission explained, "We did not have people coming forward to complain. There is so much difficulty at the time of death in finding a funeral parlor plus the grief and bereavement. When parlors were called by the crisis center they decided to file a complaint."

Norm Nickens, San Francisco Human Rights Commission AIDS assistant, states there have been no such discrimination charges filed here. He said that the local AIDSARC non-discrimination law would offer legal protection. If any charges are filed, he said the HRC would investigate.

PROBLEMS IN S.F.

Bay Area Reporter talked with local AIDS agencies and determined that, when asked, they recommend Tom Simpson, an independent gay funeral director who has about 35 AIDS clients monthly, or the Neptune funeral society (which uses the logo "Lambda" in the gay community). Both firms are considered less expensive and Simpson, who is openly gay, is considered by many to be "more sensitive."

Problems that existed two years ago with other more traditional funeral homes have largely disappeared although their fees are generally higher for all funerals. Sometimes an extra fee is charged when it is learned that the deceased had AIDS for "special handling."

B.A.R. telephoned four of the better-known funeral parlors: All the funeral directors were friendly and none of them refused to embalm. Daphne Funerals immediately said that if it was a person with AIDS, it would recommend cremation. A Daphne official later said if there was

embalming and a chapel service there would be a higher fee "because a person with AIDS requires special handling." Green Street Mortuary explained there would be a \$33 fee for extra handling. Halsted's said there would be a \$150 handling charge because of AIDS. Sullivan's, which is in the Castro area, had no additional charge.

The fees requested, overall, were within the same range. A simple cremation with no funeral service was as little as \$500. A full traditional funeral with embalming, open casket, chapel service, and transportation ranged from \$1,100 to \$1,600. The cost of a casket (\$150 up) and a cemetery plot are additional.

EXTRAS

Simpson explained that telephone quotes from funeral parlors are not accurate because

there are "extras" that can be added when the final arrangements are made. He said his cremation is \$499 and his full, traditional funeral is \$1,195. He added that if there are some services in the full service that the client does not want, the item is subtracted from the total.

Neptune's Lambda office was opened by Simpson in 1984. He later had differences with the firm and became associated with Comisky-Roche Chapel as an independent.

Paul Hedvig of Neptune said that most of the people who come to him because his firm is known to do inexpensive cremations. He said, "San Franciscans are more enlightened and do not want a big, dramatic funeral with a lot of expenses." Simpson said 60 percent of his clients want crema-



Tom Simpson

(Photo: Rink)

tion while 40 percent want a full traditional funeral or out-of-state shipment.

The National Funeral Directors Association has distributed guidelines on embalming AIDS cases but Simpson says they are no different than in handling any other blood-contact disease that might endanger an embalmer. Any charges for "special handling" because of AIDS, Simpson insists are unjustified. "They

come in contact with communicable diseases and do not charge extra. Some use a paper-product AIDS safety kit that mortuary houses sell for \$15.62. To charge a lot more than that as a 'special fee' is totally unjustified."

There is more discrimination outside of the state, according to Simpson. He has had to call as many as four mortuaries in some cities before he could find one

(Continued on next page)

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This project funded by the San Francisco Department of Public Health

Pickup

(Continued from page 1)

may have been a robbery attempt
or some other type of alterca-
tion."

As Bay Area Reporter went to
press, police had yet to identify
the one victim. He was carrying
no identification. He was white,
in his late 20s to early 30s, was
6'2", weighed 158 pounds, had
brown hair, mustache, and tattoos
on each arm. He had been wear-
ing a black tee-shirt with a Harley
Davidson eagle on the front and
"Cycle Center, Fremont" on the
back.

Police described the arm tat-
toos as crudely done and non-
professional. On his left upper
arm was the word "Nina" above
a crucifix and the initials
"SMA." On his right arm
was a dagger over the letters
"RICRA."

De Ellis, 41, was a telecom-
munications engineer for Pacific
Gas and Electric. According to
security guards at the St. Francis
Place complex, he frequently
brought men home with him.

Police are investigating the
possibility of a serial killer being
responsible for some of the 16 un-
solved gay-related homicides that
have occurred in the last year.
But at present they have no leads.

"We have to look into it," said
Erdelatz. "We'd be negligent if
we didn't. But there is no phys-
ical evidence that leads us to
believe this guy was involved in
any other killings."

Fingerprint patterns will be in-
vestigated, however, as will the
background of the unidentified
dead man.

Anyone having any informa-
tion on either of the victims
should call Homicide Inspector
Jeff Brosch at 553-1145. •

**Volunteer:
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Sex Ed.

(Continued from previous page)

"We think this language (the
rejected guidelines statements on
homosexuality) is important be-
cause of the evidence we have
that young people are involved in
anti-gay violence. This is a way of
helping them to learn about us as
real people rather than as stereo-
types."

San Francisco School Board
member, Libby Denebeim was
also at the press conference in
support of the rejected guide-
lines on homosexuality.

"Frankly, I don't know what is
going to happen," said Dene-
beim in a later interview. "The
kinds of things that the state
board of education does are in
most cases only guidelines. It
doesn't mean the local board of
education has to follow their
lead."

Denebeim said that the state
guidelines serve to set a tone for
school districts around the state.

Despite this, she added, "We
are going to continue to move
forward. Even if they adopt guide-
lines we're not happy with, that
doesn't mean we can't go and try
to change them next year." •

Funerals

(Continued from previous page)

that would take a person with
AIDS. He believes this will lessen
as information about what AIDS
is about becomes more wide-
spread.

Human Rights commissions
across the country will attempt to
eliminate discrimination where it
exists—particularly in major
cities. The director of the NYC
commission, Dr. Marcella Max-
well, believes "the decision here
sends a strong message to funeral
directors that discrimination is il-
legal and we will charge those
who step over the boundaries of
the law." •

DEATHS

Robert Bizzo

Robert Bizzo passed sweetly and soft-
ly into a gentler world. He died of AIDS
on Jan. 31 after living his life of 33 years
in San Francisco.



His devoted
parents, Robert
and Eleanor Biz-
zo, were there to
help him through
his journey, as
was his sister
Sandra.

His loyalty to
his friends and
his joy of art,
dance and music
will remain in the hearts of all who knew
him.

Donations may be made to the Shanti
Project. •

Emery S. Hetrick

Emery S. Hetrick, an innovator in the
delivery of psychiatric and social services,
died early Tuesday, Feb. 3, at New York
University Medical Center. The immedi-
ate cause of death was respiratory failure
after a loss of blood pressure and resulted
from an AIDS-related condition. Dr.
Hetrick was 56 years old.



Dr. Hetrick
had been Associ-
ate Medical Di-
rector of the
Roerig Division
of Pfizer, Inc., un-
til resigning be-
cause of ill health
at the end of last
year. In 1979, Dr.
Hetrick co-found-
ed with his life
partner, A. Da-
mien Martin, the Institute for the Protec-
tion of Lesbian and Gay Youth, a youth
advocacy agency serving homosexu-
ally-oriented young people and their families.
Dr. Hetrick also co-founded Seniors in a
Gay Environment (SAGE), a social service
agency for lesbian and gay senior citi-
zens; Gay Psychiatrists of New York; and
New York Physicians for Human Rights
(NYPHR).

Dr. Hetrick is survived by his life part-
ner of the past 12 years, A. Damien Mar-
tin, Executive Director of the Institute for
the Protection of Lesbian and Gay Youth;
his mother, Alice, and sister, Virginia Dill,
both of Columbus, Ohio, and two cousins,
Elissa and Darcey Lane of New York City.

A service for Dr. Hetrick was held on
Feb. 7 at the Episcopal Church of St. Luke
in the Field in Greenwich Village.

The family has requested that those
wishing to make a donation to Dr.
Hetrick's memory contribute to the In-
stitute for the Protection of Lesbian and
Gay Youth, 110 East 23rd Street, New
York, NY 10010; (212) 473-1113. •

Allan F. Rapstad

Allan Francis Rapstad died of AIDS
complications at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday,
Feb. 7. His mother Mary Burkenstock, his
brother Monte, his roommates Claude
Duvall, Alison Linck and Yusuf Spire,
and his dear friend of many years Jim
Devena are among his mourners. Many
in San Francisco will remember Allan
from his work at the Boarding House, the
San Francisco Film Festival, and (on
stage and off) the Noh Oratorio Society.

His zest for living and his mordant wit
never left him, though his temper (the
stuff of which legends are made) abated
somewhat in his last weeks. His love for
film and literature, his passion for order
and tidiness, his blithe disregard for Mat-
thew 5:22 (though at times he substituted
"Numb-nuts!" for "Fool!"), his deep af-
fection for Sam, who swam the Styx a few
months before Allan caught the boat, his
genuine unselfishness, pleased at his
friends' joys and grieved at their sorrows,
his outrage at unfairness, tyranny, and the
lesser films of Francis Ford Coppola:
these traits and many others gave his
presence a felt substantiality which made
most other people seem, next to him,
raiths. Our memories of him will be
fond, long and well-tended. •

Thomas Arthur Reynolds

"Tommy"

4/10/53 - 1/28/87

On Jan. 28, Tommy died peacefully at
home. His death was AIDS-related. He is
survived by his mother Cathy, sister Patti,
brothers Mike, Jerry and Allen, and many
loving friends.

Tommy, you were loved and will be
missed by all of your family and friends.

Donations may be made to Shanti Pro-
ject or Coming Home Hospice in Tommy's
name. For further information, call Ritch
McFarland at 431-6674. •

Dr. Donald Baker

Dr. Donald Duane Baker of the Castro
Medical Clinic and the San Francisco
Public Health Department died on Jan.
12 at R.K. Davies Hospital of AIDS com-
plications.



His family and
his lover were his
support during
his illness and
throughout his
life. Don will be
missed by all of
his patients and
the medical com-
munity. It took a
great person to
treat the sick
when he himself
was so sick. He made a quiet gesture of
goodby and left us. I will miss him more
than the world will know. •

Charles R. Bowman

4/17/54 - 2/4/87

Charles Bowman, affectionately known
as "Scooby" by his many friends, left us
early Wednesday morning, Feb. 2. Scooby
fought the fight with determination. Even
after he lost his eyesight, he persevered.
At the end, the awful disease resisted
Scooby and took him from us. He is
peaceful now and we know he has happily
joined his twin sister Janice whom he
adored.



All of who
knew and loved
Scooby will miss
his cheerful dis-
position and his
wonderful laugh-
ter. We shall also
miss his un-
matched compas-
sion for us and
all whom his life
touched.

He was a quiet, peaceful, cheerful and
kind man with, at times, an impish nature.
Above all, Scooby was an endearing,
beautiful man.

He is survived by his parents, Rev. and
Mrs. Robert Delley of Oakland; brothers
Daryl Delley of Oakland and Curtis
McQueen of San Diego; a sister, Regena
Cambrel of Oakland; a niece, Nyeka
Spierling of Oakland, and his long-time
special lover Ed Kearnson of San Fran-
cisco.

Scooby, we love you and always will.
Thank you for your love and compassion. •



Obituary Policy

Due to an unfortunately large
number of obituaries, *Bay Area
Reporter* has been forced to
change its obituary policy.

We must now restrict obits to
200 words. And please, no poetry.
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BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Brougham In The Running For Peralta College Board

Gay Vote Could Be Decisive In District

by Charles Linebarger

The former president of the East Bay Gay and Lesbian Democratic Club is aiming to become the first elected gay official in Alameda County. Tom Brougham has filed to run as a candidate in district 4 of the Peralta Community College District.

Brougham told Bay Area Reporter that the reason he has decided to run is, "Basically, the district is on the verge of financial ruin. And my opponent has done nothing about it."

Brougham said that he sees the need for the creation of a package of reforms to stave off bankruptcy for the college district.

"The district is declining because it is losing students rapidly," said the gay candidate. "Some of it is because of the district's policy of requiring enrollment fees. Full-time students pay \$50 a semester now. But as recently as three years ago tuition was free."

Brougham laid the blame for the new fees on Gov. George Deukmejian's education policies

in Sacramento. But he also laid part of the blame on the present college board's poor management. He said that the college board has made poor decisions as to where to make needed cutbacks.

Said Brougham, "They're cutting resources from programs that students need; this drives students out."

According to Brougham, the Peralta Community College District has lost 6,000 of its former 20,000 students in the last three years. And the students the district is losing are moving on to

Chabot Community College in the south, Contra Costa Community College in the north and Mount Diablo Community College in the east.

Brougham is running as an openly gay candidate and is supporting a number of gay issues. "I'm strongly in support of comparable worth and I will make sure that there is no form of discrimination in the district on the basis of sexual orientation and AIDS status. AIDS education should be carried forward, and I'm very interested in eventually carrying domestic partnership as



Tom Brougham.

an employment policy for the district."

District 4, which Brougham is running in, includes the Berkeley flatlands, as well as 16 precincts in northwest Oakland and Emeryville. The primarily Berkeley-based district has about 60,000 registered voters, according to Brougham.

In most of district 4, the college board election will be the only race on the ballot; however, in the Oakland precincts there

will also be school board and city council races. The election is scheduled for April 21.

"The voter turn-out is going to be extremely low," said Brougham, "and it is almost literally the case that if we can turn out a large lesbian and gay voter group we can have a great impact on the election. Probably only ten percent of the total number of people on the rolls are likely to go to the polls. This means the gay vote can be very powerful if we can mobilize it. The gay vote is big enough in the East Bay that we can be a big determinant in the final outcome."

Brougham is not the first openly gay man to run for a seat on the Peralta College Board. Leland Traiman ran eight years ago and won a majority of the votes in his district but less than a majority overall. Because of election rules operating then, Traiman lost the election because he failed to win a majority of votes throughout the college district.

New rules, however, may favor the election of a more liberal candidate for district 4. If Brougham wins the seat he will be the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in the East Bay.

Gay Pride Ruffles Suburban Feathers

Loud Opposition to Concord Celebration; Battle Looms Over Rights Commission

by Allen White

Concord's newly formed Human Relations Commission becomes the battleground this week for a confrontation between East Bay gay groups and an inflamed coalition opposing a proposal by the commission for a Gay Freedom Week in Concord.

Joan Sparks, a staffer for the Concord Human Rights Commission, said the group was organized as the city recognized that, "it is a growing urban area with growing urban problems," adding, "The commission was formed to address these problems."

Organized last September, the commission has nine members. Larry Whitsall, pastor of the Concord Metropolitan Community Church, is one of the members.

In October, the commission set out to "Make a brand new start at promoting equality in Concord," said Sparks. This included preparing a workplan. In January, the group met to approve the plan.

In the workplan was a listing of proposed ethnic events, including a Black history month, a women's history month, activities to celebrate Asian as well as Hispanic cultures, and the proposal for a Gay Freedom Week.

The idea of gay pride set off a confrontation. "Homophobic people perceived a parade like in San Francisco," Sparks said. "They could just see people from San Francisco streaming through the Caldecott Tunnel."

On Feb. 3, some Concord residents exploded in outrage over

the concept. More than 200 people crammed into the monthly meeting of the city's Human Relations Commission.

Sixteen people spoke and gave their reasons why gay people should not be acknowledged in Concord. Only three spoke in favor of the proposal.

Rev. Whitsall said that, in fact, they believe the gay community wants a parade. He believes they may prefer to have educational forums or possibly an event with community appreciation awards.

He said the lifestyle is completely different in Concord from San Francisco. "I know of only one gay bar in Contra Costa County. They go to San Francisco if they want to go to bars," he said. "People came to Concord to settle down. These people don't want a parade in Concord," Whitsall said.

The next round in the confrontation will come tonight, Feb. 19, when the Human Relations Commission meets to plan a formal response to comments on the workplan. Since the only thing people have objected to in the plan is the Gay Freedom Week, that is where all of the response will be directed. As many as 500 people are expected to show up for the meeting.

Whitsall says, "We want to find a way to explain our intentions as clearly as possible."

It appears that many people in the area are not interested in a reasoned response. There are a substantial number of people who, based on their fundamentalist religious convictions, simply don't want gay people in the area. They are expected to turn out in droves for the meeting, having generated hundreds of letters in opposition.

Last week the Contra Costa County Human Relations Commission voted to support their Concord counterpart. The only dissenters were the two black men on the eleven member county panel. Ironically, blacks have supported opposition to the gay pride proposal.

Contra Costa County has come to be viewed as one of the most racially volatile areas in the United States. Observers note that support of an anti-gay position by the black community may boomerang as blacks try to fight the rampant racism against their own community.

Concord's Human Rights Commission was formed at a time when there was consider-

(Continued on next page)

Nez Pss

Valentine's Day Massacre

HOW DID YOU SPEND THE DAY OF LOVE?

The custom as a lovers' festival and sending Valentine cards has no relation to St. Valentine—two saints of the same name; one a Roman priest and the other a bishop of Interamma. The current "I-Heart-U" customs seem rather to be connected either with the pagan Roman festival of the Lupercalia which took place in the middle of February, or with the spring season in general.

Notwithstanding, it is established that Feb. 14 is a day for lovers—renewing same, looking for, or getting rid of one. My sweetheart, however, was in Seattle that day on business, but we did exchange cards in the a.m. I received a sadomasochistic cartoon dungeon scene, "You made me love you, but I would have anyway!" I gave an animated, "This is a decent and wholesome

Valentine's Day card, devoid of any smirking, juvenile sexual titillation ... although I was naked when I signed it!" What the hell, it's been 23 years! So what was left for me to do but help some friends in need?

For whatever the reasons or motives, moving is never any fun, and moving on Valentine's Day seems almost tantamount to sacrilege. It's even worse when one of the moves is unable to assist because of a broken leg. George's straw bossing, I suspect, was more tiring than doing the actual physical labor. All he could do—aside from giving orders—was shift from one cheek to the other with leg raised for 15 minutes and lowered for 10. Uncomfortable just doesn't quite describe how he must have felt.

Because of George's incapacitation, B.J. assumed the respon-

(Continued on next page)

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East Bay Demos Elect New Officers

At a recent monthly membership meeting, outgoing East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club president Tom Brougham announced his candidacy for the Peralta College Board of Trustees for District One (parts of Berkeley's flatlands and north Oakland). The college district is facing a possible \$10 million deficit in 1988 and currently under state trusteeship.

Brougham announced that anyone interested in his campaign could contact him at 843-2459. He also announced that he and his long-time lover, Barry Warren, have completed the application process for Berkeley's unique domestic partners program.

New club officers were elected as follows: president Bob Kegeles, political action chair Don Pharaoh, treasurer Eric Hsu, corresponding secretary Jim Wilson, and public relations chair Armand Boulay.

In other club business, members voted to re-affiliate with the California Democratic Council after hearing of its rejuvenation statewide. One hundred dollars was contributed to the California Association of Lesbian/Gay Democratic Clubs.

This was followed by a discussion of the controversial bogus door-hangers that created a major uproar in Berkeley's latest

municipal election. Consensus was that the tactic was unethical but not illegal and opened up the need for community-wide discussion of electoral ethics in future elections. It was also emphasized that the club itself should always be open to a full spectrum of ideas represented within the lesbian/gay Democratic electorate of the East Bay rather than to identify the club with any specific Berkeley or Oakland political factions.

Favorable comments were expressed regarding new county supervisor Don Perata, of Alameda, who has agreed to sponsor a county AIDS anti-discrimination law. He has also supported increased AIDS funding on the county level. Support was expressed for state Superintendent of Public Instruction Bill Honig's request that public schools teach about homosexuality and AIDS in a nonjudgmental way.

A recent membership drive has garnered over 50 new members. Ways are being sought to involve them closely in the club's activities, especially women. There will be a meeting on Thursday, Mar. 5, at 7:30 p.m. in Oakland to hear the candidates in the April election for Oakland city council and school board as well as for the Peralta College Board. For location, call 528-0166 or 843-2459.



Dr. Fred Strauss (r) of the Men's Wart Clinic with assistants Scott McAdams and Jerry Thornhill

Bay Area VD Rate Goes Down

VD rates among gay men have decreased dramatically in the Bay Area during the last few years. This is largely due to outstanding AIDS educational programs by many local organizations. Probably at no time in history has a population responded so dramatically to an epidemic.

Venereal wart cases do not seem to be a part of the decreased VD rate. In fact, one East Bay clinic reports wart cases have nearly doubled from 1985 to 1986. One reason for this is that safe sex activities which may prevent an exchange of bodily fluids may not necessarily prevent contact with wart tissue which spreads the wart virus. Another reason is that warts can have a long incubation period and warts appearing

now may be the result of exposure to the wart virus as long as a couple of years ago.

The Men's Wart Clinic, at the Oakland Feminist Women's Health Center, treats most kinds of venereal warts in men, including penile warts, and both internal and external anal warts. The gay staffed, nonprofit clinic offers convenient Wednesday evening appointments, affordable sliding scale fees, and also accepts insurance, Medi-Cal, and bank cards. Staff physician is Fred Strauss, founder of the Berkeley Gay Men's Health Collective, and a specialist in sexually transmitted diseases for several years. For appointments or additional information, please call 444-5676.

Nez Pas

(Continued from previous page)

sibilities of foreperson—and a good job was done under those trying conditions.

As it turned out, only two of the promised four pick-up trucks bothered to show up, and only six able bodies materialized (make that 5½, if you've seen my body!). Mr. Lumberjack was a tad upset about all the unfulfilled

promises of help. A friend in need? Indeed!

I arrived on the scene about 11 a.m. To my relief, most of the heavy furniture had already been transported to the new domicile. There remained, however, much sorting and packing, including the worst-of-all items to move—books and records. I was first assigned a bookcase in the den, including the books, shelves, brackets, anchor beams, and screws. Packing boxes were aplenty, only they had to be taped into

shape from their flattened state (a time-consuming task).

The apartment being vacated was split-level with only six stairs from one floor to the other. That doesn't sound like a lot, but when those stairs are traversed dozens upon dozens of times, the leg muscles tend to scream their displeasure. And, no matter what was needed, it was always in another room, on the other level!

My next five assignments bordered on "violation." If a person's home is that person's castle, then certain areas in that castle must, logically, be private and off limits to strangers. Such areas, to me at least, are: the bathroom (cabinets and drawers), linen closet, junk closet, under the kitchen sink, and the refrigerator. But, "violate" I must, so I began.

The bathroom: Is there a person alive who hasn't "snooped" into someone's medicine cabinet? Imagine, then, my having to empty that cabinet, along with all other cabinets and drawers. It's human nature to compare brands of tooth paste, mouth wash,

adhesive bandages, etc. It's also human nature to look askance at items of the unfamiliar or not usually associated with their owners.

And there are decisions: Do I pack the half roll of toilet tissue still in the holder, or leave it—knowing full well that the new residents will throw it away. What about the partially used bar of soap in the shower—it was good for two more anyway? How does one pack sticky soap? Wrap it in some of that toilet tissue? I opted for the former and left the latter.

The junk closet (aka junk drawer gone wild!): Games, toys—no, not that kind, exercise equipment, things one can't do without but where to put them until a use is found, personal records, letters, collectors' items, a few tools, etc.—all are personal genre of their owners. Should they go to the new place or be stored (and forgotten)? Several trips up and down the stairs to confer with the straw boss resulted in three boxes to the new place and five to storage. (Tape for the boxes was becoming a premium by now!)

The refrigerator: This is the ultimate violation! Why is it that whenever a total stranger digs in someone else's "ice box" every single covered container of leftovers automatically grows mildew or turns sour? Why is it every potable liquid doesn't contain enough to save? Why is it that the dried-out cheese slices are on top, exposed to prying eyes? Why is it that wilted vegetables look worse in someone else's "cold drawer"?

Was that really bacon I just packed, or did it actually squirm in my hand? I, personally, don't keep mustard or catsup (or ketchup) in the fridge, but they do—pack it! And why is it that the little spill on the glass shelf that one forgot to wipe up increases fivefold with a stranger's glance? Don't pack the spill!

SALMAGUNDI

(A "Mish-Mash" Nose!)

Paul M. Asked me to announce that there will finally be a meeting of the Oakland Parade Contingent! It will be at the Paradise, Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 7:30. All who are interested in the float or marching units are urged to attend. (P.S., don't expect George!)

Cynthia Bythell and her trio, Stoney Broke and The Insufficient Funds, will appear at Big Mama's this Sunday, Feb. 22, at 4 p.m. Also appearing will be special guest comedian Terry Sand. There is never a cover charge at Big Mama's.

Is it a slap in the face to the community? Is it a bending of the constitution? Is it just plain "We're In! We can do what we want? Whatever, Lady Johnny was reinstated as Dowager Empress of A.C.I.E. What becomes of Heather?

If you push something hard enough, it will fall over! I'd like to smile. Love,

Nez

All the dish
that's fit to print.

Concord

(Continued from previous page)

able mistrust because of police handling of the death of Timothy Lee, a Concord gay black man. Lee was found hanged near the Concord BART station in 1985. Police concluded that his death was suicide; not a racially motivated murder.

The Concord City Council, under extreme pressure from voters, will meet next Monday night (Feb. 23) to possibly restrain their Human Relations Commission. The council appoints members of the commission.

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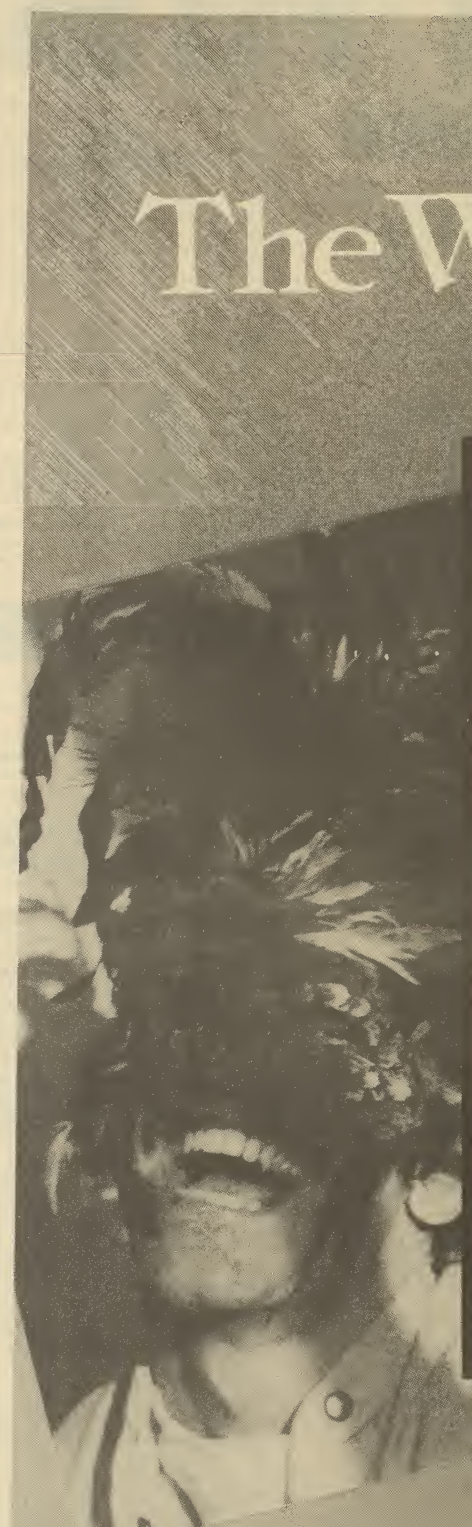


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THIS

FRIDAY 20

- **Judy Grahn:** will read in the tradition of her well-known poetry and writings, Sisterspirit Coffeehouse, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, doors open 8 PM, reading begins 9 PM, \$3-\$7 sliding scale.
- **Karen Ripley and Monica Grant:** comedy cabaret, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 8-10 PM, free.
- **Beyond Definition:** music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$4-\$6 sliding scale. R&B, jazz, top-40.
- **My Beautiful Launderette:** film, Cole Hall Auditorium, UC San Francisco, 513 Parnassus, 6:30 and 8:30 PM, \$2-\$3.
- **The Bohemian Grove:** stage performance, New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$8. With Gary Aylesworth and Peter Newton back by popular demand. Tickets available at STBS and BASS. Call 863-9834 for reservations and more information.
- **Please Wait For The Beep:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$9-\$12. The comedy hit of last year's Studio season takes the mainstage; written by Margery Kreitman, directed by Patricia Keane. Call 861-5079 for tickets.
- **Dinosaurs Surviving the Crunch:** stage performance, The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$8. Comedian Sandy Van conjures Carol Channing, Tallulah Bankhead, and Katherine Hepburn, delivering original monologues and fielding questions from the audience. Call 861-5079 for tickets.
- **Women Meeting Women:** party, 6:30-10 PM. Call Midgett at 864-0876 to RSVP. Dinner, conversation and coffee, with games to follow.
- **Fraternal Order of Gays:** game fest, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 8 PM. Call 641-0999 for more information.
- **CHISPAS:** Spanish club for gays and lesbians evening social, 7:30 PM. Native speakers and learners welcome. Call 526-8912 for more information.
- **Growing American Youth Group:** for gays and lesbians 21 or younger, Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church, 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord. Call 372-9014 or 827-2960 for more information.
- **Yoga Class for PWAs and PWARC:** taught by PWA, 4-5:30 in the Mission, \$5 if you can afford. Call 863-7212 for more information.
- **AIDS Prayer Vigil:** Church of the Advent of Christ the King, 261 Fell St., S.F., noon to 3 PM. Call 431-0454 for more information.
- **"I Had AIDS Workshop":** noon and 7 PM; videos at 9 PM. Call Richard Locke at 558-9650 for more information.
- **Vision play:** circle of healing and renewal using visualization and deep trance work, Quan Yin Acupuncture Center, 513 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5-\$15 sliding scale. Led by Van Ault, certified hypnotherapist. Call 864-1362 for more information.
- **Church of the Secret Gospel:** service, 746 Clementina St., No. 2, S.F., 8 PM, \$2. Carnal communion to 10:30 PM, refreshments, males 18+ welcome. Call 621-1887 for more information.
- **Spiritmenders:** giving and receiving kindred spirits, Spiritmenders Community Center, 2141 Mission St., #203 (between 17th and 18th Sts.), 5-7 PM. For mental health clients, previous or present. Call 552-4910 for details.
- **Imperial AIDS Foundation:** rap group, Home Federal Savings meeting room, 480 S. Mathilda (corner of Olive and S. Mathilda), Sunnyvale, 7-10 PM. Call 968-8976 or 965-1189 for details.
- **Women's Drop-in Space:** conversation and caring, 1615 Polk St., upstairs, S.F., 7-9 PM, every Friday.
- **Frank Banks:** sing-a-long piano, Belden 22, 22 Belden Place, S.F., 5:45-8 PM.
- **People With AIDS Support Group:** meeting. Call the Shanti Project at 558-9644 for more information.
- **SF Macrobiotic Network:** community dinner, Zen Center Guest House, 273 Page St., S.F., 6:30 PM, \$8. Call 647-3347 to make a reservation. Free lyengar-style Yoga class precedes the dinner at 5 PM.

SATURDAY 21

- **Melanie Monsur:** music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$4-\$6 sliding scale. Earthy folk and blues to a synthesized sound.
- **Plutonium Players, Femprov,** et al: in a benefit for Paul Krassner who needs back surgery for an injury that may have been the result of the White Night riots, Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 8 PM, \$10. Call 548-7234 for more information.
- **Bululu:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 10 PM to 1 AM. Salsa, Brazilian.
- **The Bohemian Grove:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **EastBay FrontRunners:** Pt. Pinole run. Take I-80 north to Hilltop Dr. and go west past the mall. Turn right onto San Pablo Ave. and go about half a mile. Turn left where indicated and stay on road to Pt. Pinole Park. Meet at parking road. Call 526-7592 or 261-3246 for more information.
- **Fraternal Order of Gays:** game fest (see Friday listing for details).
- **Libertarians For Gay and Lesbian Concerns:** meeting, Free Forum Books, 1800 Market St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Michael Kelley and Alex McDonald will talk about the San Francisco No On 64 campaign.
- **MCC of the Redwoods and the Society of St. Francis:** day of dialogue, Community Church of Mill Valley, Olive and Throckmorton sts., Mill Valley, 10 AM to 2 PM. The theme will be The Path of Spirituality: The Inner Journey and is open to anyone interested in religious community life for gays and lesbians. Call 388-2315 for more information.
- **Sweet Inspiration:** music, Sweet Inspiration, 2239 Market St., S.F., all afternoon, free. Call 621-8664 for more information. Sunday also.
- **Please Wait For The Beep:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Dinosaurs Surviving the Crunch:** stage performance (see Friday for details).
- **Kinship:** support group for lesbian and gay Seventh-day Adventists. Call 661-9912 or (408) 866-0159 TDD for more information.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** Meet at Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 9 AM. No-host brunch follows; beginners welcome. Call 673-7303 or 337-8704 for more information.

SUNDAY 22

- **Women's Leather Dance:** sponsored by International Ms. Leather, Inc., Amelia's, 647 Valencia St., S.F., 6-10 PM, \$3. Prizes, t-shirts, posters.
- **A Waitress In Bohemia:** read by its author, Ron Bluestein, Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market St., S.F., 8 PM, \$3. Call 861-3078 for more information.
- **Women's Tea Dance:** sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders, San Francisco Home Health Services, 225 30th St., S.F., 2-5 PM. Music, dancing, refreshments. Call 626-7000 for more information.
- **Cynthia Bythell and Her Trio:** with special guest comedian, Big Mama's, 22615 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 4 PM.
- **Unruly World:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 5:30 PM, \$5. Funky-rock, Afro-Cuban, Calypso dance music.
- **Carolyn Brandy Band:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4-8 PM, \$3. Latin funk.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** South Side Loop run. Meet at 25th Ave. and MLK Dr. in Golden Gate Park at 10 AM. Two to three miles, rolling. Call 673-7303 or 337-8704 for more information.
- **Slightly Older Lesbians:** meeting, 5 PM potluck, 6 PM support/discussion group. Newcomers welcome. Call 647-0413 for more information.
- **Calvary MCC:** worship service, 5 PM. Call 368-0188 for more information.
- **Gay PC User Group:** meeting, MCC San Francisco, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 3-5 PM. Call 334-9761 for more information.
- **MCC of the Redwoods:** worship and communion service, Olive and Throckmorton Sts., Mill Valley, 10:45 AM. Call 388-2315 for more information.
- **Latter-Day Saints:** sacrament meeting for lesbians and gays and their friends, Sacramento Lambda Community Center, 1931 L St., Sacramento, 1 PM. Conducted by the Sacramento Family of the Restoration Church of Jesus Christ. Call (916) 447-5755 for more information.
- **Integrity:** Eucharist, St. John's Church, 1661 15th St., S.F., 5:30 PM.
- **MCC San Francisco:** worship and communion services, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 10:30 AM and 7 PM. Call 863-4434 for more information. Childcare and signing provided at morning service.
- **Church of the Secret Gospel:** (see Friday for details).
- **St. Mark's Lutheran Church:** services, 111 O'Farrell (at Gough), S.F., communion at 8:30 AM and 11 AM. Call 928-7770 for details.
- **Diablo Valley MCC:** worship celebration, 2253 Concord Blvd., 10 AM. Call 827-2960 for details.
- **Affirmation-Gay and Lesbian Mormons:** meeting and services. Call 641-4554 for recorded message which details the meetings and socials.
- **Golden Gate MCC:** Sunday worship services, 48 Belcher St. (between 14th St. and Duboce), S.F., 12:30 PM, 7 PM. Call 474-4848 for details.
- **Dignity:** Sunday Mass, St. Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate (near Civic Center), 5:30 PM. Call 584-1714 for details.
- **Men's Clinic:** free and confidential VD testing and treatment for gonorrhea, syphilis, NGU, scabies, lice, venereal warts, etc. Counseling and referrals for men with AIDS/ARC concerns, open to all Bay Area gay men, sponsored by the Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 7-9 PM. Call 644-0425 for more information.
- **Holy Trinity Church:** meets at the Billy DeFrank Community Center, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 10 AM to noon.

WEEK



This week is your last chance to see Theatre Rhino's *Please Wait For The Beep* (Photo: S. Cohen)

- **Eastern Orthodox:** Holy Ascension Mission, liturgy at 10 AM, 1671 Golden Gate #2, S.F. Call 563-8514 for more information.

MONDAY 23

- **SF Jacks:** ordinary week, 890 Folsom St., S.F., doors open from 7:30 to 8:30 PM, \$6.
- **The Buddy Connection:** safe sex workshop, MCC San Francisco, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7-10 PM, free. Sponsored by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Call 863-AIDS for more information.
- **Spirituality for Recovering Women:** support group, 3017 Geary Blvd., S.F., 7-8:30 PM, sliding scale. Call 239-4965 for more information.

TUESDAY 24

- **The Sultan of Sleaze in Person:** an evening with John Waters, Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St., S.F., 8 PM.
- **Gay Cable Network:** television on cable channel 6, 9-10 PM. *Pride and Progress* takes a closer look at Black and White Men Together, while *The Right Stuff* takes a closer look at Bay Area artists and musicians.
- **Metaphysical AIDS Healing Service:** featuring Sally Fisher, creator of AIDS Mastery, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St., S.F., 7 PM. Signed for the hearing impaired. Presented by the Metaphysical Alliance; co-sponsored by the AIDS Interfaith Network. Call 431-8708 or 621-7187 for more information.
- **Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays:** meeting, Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church, 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord, 8 PM. Call 372-9014 or 827-2960 for more information.
- **People of Color:** support group, 513 Valencia St., 6-8 PM, free. Educational support group for minorities experiencing anxiety about their health, sex, and AIDS. Sponsored by the AIDS Health Project. Facilitated by Julius Johnson, PhD. Childcare available with 24-hour notice. Call 681-7887 for more information.
- **Temescal Gay Men's Chorus:** rehearsal, Trinity Hall, 2320 Dana, Berkeley, 7:30 PM. Call 843-1439 for more information.
- **ISA Men's Group:** SF Men's Tuesday Night Incest Survivors Anonymous 12-step program, SF Home Health Services, 225 30th St., room 206, S.F., 7:30-9 PM. Closed meeting for survivors and pro-survivors. Non-smoking, wheelchair accessible, free parking. Call 474-2872 for more information.
- **AIDS Project of the East Bay:** People with AIDS/ARC Support Group and *Lovers, Friends and Family of People with AIDS/ARC*, 6-8 PM. Call 420-8181 for details.
- **Gay International Folk Dancing:** for lesbians and gay men, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, Collingwood Park, S.F., teaching 7:30-8 PM, request dancing 8-9:30 PM, \$2.50. Call 585-9784 or 285-5634 for details.
- **BurLEZK:** erotic dance show for women, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, \$5.
- **People With AIDS Support Group:** meeting (see Friday for details).

- **San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps:** rehearsal, Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission St., S.F., 7:30 PM. All band instrumentalists are needed. Call 621-5619 for more information. Every Tuesday.

WEDNESDAY 25

- **National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights:** East Bay community meeting, Claremont Middle School, 5750 College Ave., Claremont, 7:30 PM. Jan Keith and Ken Jones, Bay Area National March Steering Committee co-chairs, will be present. Call 486-0269 for more information.
- **Men Together:** will discuss Building a Men's Community, MCC San Francisco, 150 Folsom St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 863-4434 for more information.
- **Susanne Vincenza, Mimi Fox, and Irene Sazar:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, free. Jazz with Cello, Guitar, and Violin.
- **Wednesday Matinee with GLOE:** sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders and North of Market Senior Services, this weekly program will offer movies, games, and refreshments for gay men and lesbians over 60 at 333 Turk St., S.F., 2:15-4:30 PM. Call 626-7000 for more information.
- **AIDS Project of the East Bay:** *People with AIDS/ARC Support Group*, Fairmont Hospital, San Leandro, 3-5 PM. Call 420-8181 for details.
- **Diablo Valley MCC:** Bible Study and Prayer & Praise Worship, 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord. Bible Study at 7 PM, Prayer & Praise Worship at 8:15 PM. Call 827-2960 for details.
- **Western Star Dancers:** square dance for experienced mainstream level dancers, Central YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor theater. Both males and females welcome. Every Wednesday. Call 621-5631 or 621-3990 for details.
- **Men's Wart Clinic:** removal of penile and external and internal anal venereal warts, Oakland Feminist Women's Health Center, Oakland, sliding scale. Staff physician is Dr. Fred Strauss of the Gay Men's Health Collective. Call 444-5676 for more information.
- **People With AIDS Support Group:** meeting (see Friday for details).
- **Friends, Family, and Lovers of People With AIDS:** support group. Call the Shanti Project at 558-9644 for more information.

THURSDAY 26

- **Adrienne Rich:** will appear as part of the City Arts and Lectures' ongoing On Art and Politics lecture series to benefit the Women's Foundation, Herbst Theatre, S.F., 8 PM, \$10 and \$12.50. Call 392-4400 for more information.
- **We Wear The Mask:** lecture by Jule Anderson about black lesbian/gay history as part of a meeting of the San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, Bldg. C, Room 165, Ft. Mason, S.F., 7:30 PM, \$5, free for members.
- **Artists For Community Life:** meeting, 7:30 PM. Call 652-4526 for more information.
- **Fraternal Order of Gays:** French cooking class, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 8-10 PM. Call 641-0999 for more information.
- **Gay Men's Disability Group:** Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 5:30-7 PM. Facilitated by Tom Ossenbeck, MA. Call 626-7000 for more information.
- **The Bohemian Grove:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Calvary MCC:** meets at 5 PM. Call 368-0188 for more information.
- **Bonnie Hayes:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 PM. Solo on piano.
- **Pat Wilder's R&B Jam:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 10 PM, \$2. All musicians welcome.
- **Secret Gospel Church:** meeting, 2 PM, 746 Clementina No. 2, S.F. Refreshments and rap to 4 PM, \$2. Males 18+ welcome. Call 621-1887 for more information.
- **Coming Home Hospice Bingo:** Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St., S.F., 6:30 PM, \$10 minimum buy-in. Come on over and join the fun... even if you've never played bingo before. An alcohol-free space. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages sold. Smoking and non-smoking areas. Early Bird specials. Door prizes and cash prizes for each game.
- **Coping With the Loss of People With AIDS:** support group. Call the Shanti Project at 558-9644 for more information.
- **Friends, Family, and Lovers of People With AIDS:** support group. Call the Shanti Project at 558-9644 for more information.
- **People With AIDS Support Group:** meeting (see Friday for details).



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BAY AREA REPORTER ENTERTAINMENT

Moral Courage

And The Lack of It in Martin Sherman's *Bent*

by Steve Warren

Martin Sherman's *Bent* was probably the most significant gay play to open between *The Boys in the Band* and *Torch Song Trilogy*, so why has it taken nearly eight years to reach San Francisco since its 1979 London premiere?

Michelle Truffaut doesn't know, but she's glad her San Francisco Repertory Theatre got the rights to produce it. It's currently in previews, with the official opening set for next Tuesday.

The play's West Coast rights were reportedly tied up for years by someone who wanted to mount a national tour but never did. All Truffaut knows is that she's wanted to do the play since she first read it "four or five years ago. I kept checking in with Samuel French (the company that controls the rights) to see if it was available, and it never was. About eight months ago I was talking to them about something else and just happened to ask, 'By the way, is *Bent* available?'"

This time it was. "I happened to be in the right place at the right time," Truffaut concluded.

Set in Germany in 1934, *Bent* is a Holocaust play that concentrates on the "pink triangles," the gays who were at the bottom of the pecking order in the concentration camps. The central character, Max, is a survive-at-any-cost type whose priorities evolve after he is first forced to kill his lover, Rudy, and later falls in love with another prisoner, Horst.

Audiences, which have by no means been exclusively gay, have been interesting and varied in their responses. Ian McKellan, who created the role of Max in the London production and is coincidentally appearing across town this month in *Acting Shakespeare*, says they received a standing ovation — rare for London — at every performance. "Not for the actors," he adds modestly, "but because the play is so powerful. Even those critics who couldn't bring themselves to say it was a great play were clearly affected by it."

In the negative column, McKellan says, "The only vituperation I got was from a couple of Jews who said it diminished the Jewish experience." Told of his story, Truffaut counters, "I don't hold with that and I'm a Jew. The fact that human beings were treated that way by other human beings is the point."

Playwright Martin Sherman, who is also Jewish, tells of attending the first performance of *Bent* in Israel, where it was well received. When he was introduced to the audience afterward, they were surprised to learn he was gay. "They just sat through my play," he says. "What did they think?"

Born in Philadelphia but living in London, Sherman is more frequently criticized for blatancy



Bent director Michelle Truffaut

(Photo: S. Warren)

than subtlety in the gay message of his plays, but believes, "You have to be at this point in time a bit of a pill about it."

RESEARCH AND DESTROY

E.L. Brunot, stage manager for *Bent* at SF Rep, hopes the play will inspire viewers to learn more about the tragic history it exposes.

"All our actors have done research at the local Holocaust Library and Research Center," she says. "I considered myself a well-read, informed gay person," yet she was amazed at the things she read there. "People have become so yuppified and complacent," they need a dramatic jolt to reawaken their senses.

Although there are obvious parallels between how the Nazis treated gays in the '30s and how their contemporary counterparts would like to treat us today, especially in the area of quarantine camps for people with AIDS, Truffaut is concerned about keeping *Bent* in its proper time frame.

"Putting it so specifically in that period," she insists, "makes it easier for audiences to draw the parallels for themselves. If you draw them for them they might have a tendency to resist."

Observing a rehearsal two weeks ago I could begin to feel the play's power emerging, even with only the barest suggestion of sets and costumes. Actors fumbled for lines onstage and sometimes forced levity offstage to offset the grimness of the subject matter.

Richard Lane of Touché Unlimited assisted with fight choreography, showing how to make punches look more realistic. Privately, he admitted, "I've never really hit anyone in my life." Over and over the Nazi guards dragged Liam O'Brien, who plays Rudy, onto the boxcar transporting prisoners to Dachau. Wayne Paul Mattingly, as Max, denied knowing his lover. "Hit him," commanded a guard. Made to do so repeatedly, Max got into it, his punches taking on a sexual rhythm, climaxing in Rudy's death.

Lane showed O'Brien how even a dead body should respond to being hit. Noting that, the young actor, fresh from successful runs

'The fact that human beings were treated that way by other human beings is the point.'

—Michelle Truffaut

in *The Floating Light Bulb* at ACT and *Sharon and Billy* at the Magic, expressed uncertainty about his state of consciousness earlier in the scene. "What did they do to me out there?" he asked Truffaut.

"I'm not sure how they did it," the director replied sympathetically, "but they probably castrated you."

A moment later O'Brien could be heard joking offstage, "No sense memory here."

Getting the heaviest part of the rehearsal out of the way they returned to the lighter scenes that open the play. Max and Rudy are at home together for what will be the last time. Max, hung over, is pumping his lover for details of the night before. His need for information intensifies with the appearance of the trick who has spent the night with him.

Popular local actor Drew Eshelman is in the next two scenes, first as a straight drag queen, then as a closeted gay. In the second act he will reappear as a German officer. Sean O'Brien,

Liam's brother, will play Horst, with whom Max has sex without touching in the play's most talked-about scene.

MOMENT TO MOMENT

Just before breaking for dinner, Truffaut told the cast why she places so much emphasis on details: "The most important lesson I ever learned is that a piece is made up of moments. You've got to get each moment right."

The director tells about a member of the board of SF Rep, "a conservative architect from the Peninsula. He's been supportive of us for years, whatever plays we do, but he can't always bring his neighbors to see them." In the case of *Bent*, Truffaut feels, "I don't think there's anything that can be offensive to anybody because the moral issues are so strong." Obviously a city dweller, she doesn't realize nudity and foul language can blind some people to less specific though more important moral causes.

Even without the Peninsula crowd, the potential audience for *Bent* within a mile of the 19th and Collingwood theater is enormous. This is the second consecutive gay-themed play SF Rep has done, after ten years of almost completely ignoring the subject. Is this a coincidence, or a conscious change of direction for the theater?

"I think it's a little bit of both," Truffaut responds. "We've always done work for the value of the work. In the past year we've been trying to reach out to the community a little stronger without losing the artistic vision we have, trying to be more relevant."

"But we're not trying to be a gay theater — or a black theater, or anything else." That should be comforting to her next-door neighbor, who happens to be Kris Gannon, artistic director of Theatre Rhinoceros.



Truffaut (l.), actor Drew Eshelman, and stage manager E.L. Brunot discuss a scene

(Photo: S. Warren)

Bent
S.F. Repertory Theatre
Through March 15; 864-3305

BOOKS

She Dared to be Different

Elsa: I Come With My Songs
by Elsa Gidlow

by Joy Schulenburg

Elsa is a rare literary phenomenon — a truly complete autobiography. It is also a powerful and highly personal statement by North America's first openly lesbian poet. Written shortly before her death in 1986, Gidlow's book gives a candid view of a life lived in two centuries and of a life well and fully lived. From the awakening of her feminist spirit in turn-of-the-century Canada to her latter days as a founding mother of a Marin County artist's colony, Elsa conveys a sense of triumph and quiet courage. She never forgets, nor lets her readers forget the essence of what she is: a poet, a mystic, a profound lover and champion of women. Devoutly pacifist, she nonetheless earned the title of "poet warrior." In *Elsa: I Come With My Songs*, Gidlow proves that there are many kinds of warriors and that some come armed with words.

I first became aware of Elsa Gidlow somewhere back in my teens when I came across one of her poems: "You say I am mysterious. Let me explain myself: In a land of oranges I am faithful to apples." I thought it was the most elegantly simple way of describing an intrinsic difference without passing judgement. Later, viewing the film *Word Is Out*, I was tremendously impressed by the quiet intensity of this remarkable octogenarian.

All these qualities come out clearly in her autobiographical writing. Without ever wavering from her personal convictions or ceasing her struggle on behalf of womankind, Gidlow manages to accept the world around her exactly as it is. Her sorrows never spill over into pathos nor are her pleasures bound up in egocentric self-indulgences. I have rarely found a book whose author manages to be both objective and deeply feeling at the same time. Gidlow does this and makes it seem easy.

Born in Yorkshire, England in 1898, Elsa Gidlow spent most of her childhood in Quebec in an era when Canada was still largely a frontier. The eldest child of an impoverished family, her early years do not appear to have been easy or cheerful and yet they paved the way for the steadiness of spirit that marked her character for life. Possessed of a brilliant mind and a curious, irreverent nature, Gidlow found in poetry and philosophic thought an escape from the harshness of her environment. This poetic turn both sustained her and set her apart. Ultimately it propelled her out into the wider world where she was able to explore her intellectual and sexual nature.

The primary themes throughout this book are poetry and the love of women for women. The expression of one provided Gidlow with freedom for the other, a freedom she defended passionately and with courage all her long life. She was the first woman in America to publish a book of distinctly lesbian poetry (*On a Grey Thread*, 1923) and lived quite openly with her women lovers, even by today's standards. Her experience as a lesbian is quite an eye opener for her spiritual sisters of 1987. We assume that the stigma surrounding homosexual behavior must have been extremely oppressive in the earlier days of our century. Not

so, if Gidlow's account is to be believed. It was not discrimination for her lesbianism that constrained her, nor lack of friendship and acceptance because of her sexual orientation. Rather it was a more overwhelming oppression of all women that sparked her radical nature and made her a literary voice to be reckoned with. And it was her example as a self-sufficient, empowered woman that opened a path for future generations.

As for her sexual expression, it was invisibility that caused the greatest difficulties for Gidlow. As it is for many women in small towns today, the young Elsa had neither peers nor role models to turn to for support. There was no lesbian community; relationships evolved out of friendships or through an almost invisible network that was as fragile as it was unreliable. Gidlow's honest assessments of her relationships — why they succeeded and why

they failed — is a fascinating study of both an individual and the culture she lived in. From her first innocent crushes to her affair, in her 70s, with a woman 50 years younger, Gidlow spares neither herself nor her lovers in her appraisal.

Perhaps the most subtle aspect of this book is Gidlow's spirituality. An intimate of such mystic luminaries as Alan Watts and Ella Young, the author herself was considered a philosopher and spiritual leader in her own right. Yet hers is an immensely pragmatic mysticism, so woven into the fabric of her life and loving that it is difficult to separate out and define. It is there in each chapter, whether she is discussing her childhood institutions or her experiences with psychedelic drugs, but it never becomes intrusive or obvious. Elsa Gidlow did not preach earth magic and spiritual wisdom, she lived it every day of her life.



Elsa Gidlow

(Photo: Montana Photography)

Elsa: I Come With My Songs is a rich, textural journey through a powerful woman's life. It is not a quick read nor will it shake you up in any dramatic fashion. What it will do is linger in memory long

after you have finished the final pages. Through her writing, Elsa Gidlow, the poet warrior, lives on as an example and source of strength for future generations of women who dare to be different.

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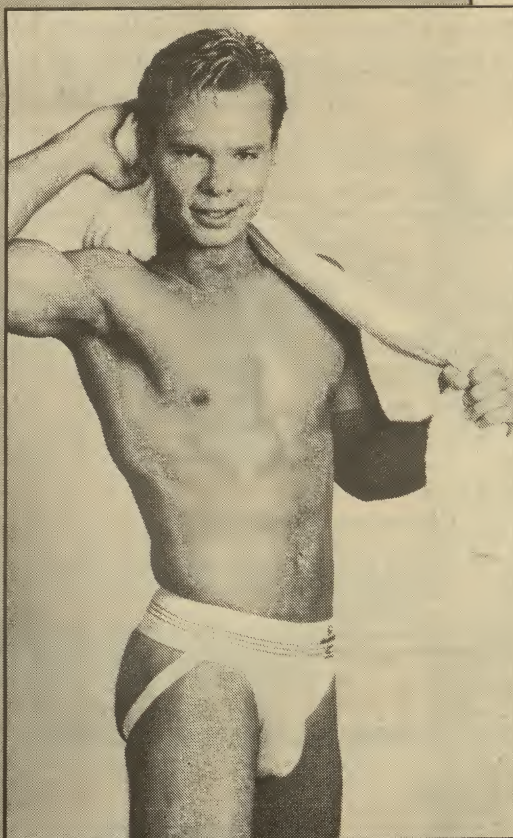
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Keith White

I Need the Trocks

I needed the Trocks this year. I needed to remember all the mannerisms of bygone ballet that today's perfect dancers have worked to eliminate, distilled by Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo into a company style as recognizable as any in the land. With two premieres and two "classics" (in the first of two programs), the Trocks brought us the laughs we count on and a few challenges as well.

Les Sylphides (staged by former Kirov dancer Alexandre Minz) possesses an unreal romanticism even in the most serious performance. For the Trocks, who exaggerate every affectation, it becomes the most direct route to comedy in their current repertoire. Each variation features a more outrageous stock personality: an excessively coy Tatiana Youbetyabootskaya in the first waltz solo; the restrained brassiness of Karina Grudj in the Prelude; Lavrenti "Biff" Stragnoff's stoic melancholy, reminiscent of Erik Bruhn, shot through with self-adoring vanity; and the mad gaiety of Margaret Lowin-Octeyn's Mazurka No. 2. All these wonderful principal dancers had taken these roles since the last time I saw the Trocks perform, but some of the new corps dancers, whose roles in this production are every bit as important as the principals', were marvelous too. A new favorite is Felina Goudolova, the very image of the long-suffering corps dancer whose endlessly held poses in classical tableaux seem to have all but petrified her muscles.

Goudolova also danced The Dying Swan solo in the performance I saw, feathers trailing and arms cramping and, of course, epic bows at the end.

Anarchic Heart, Natch Taylor's new take-off on the work of Martha Graham, mixes material borrowed from a large number of Graham's famous dances, including knock-offs of many of Isamu Noguchi's set designs. I saw ideas from *Night Journey*, *Cave of the Heart*, and snatches of *Errant Into the Maze*, *Primitive Mysteries*, and even *Appalachian Spring*, all thrown in as atmospheric seasoning. In spite of larger-than-life symbolism and vivid performances (particularly by Margaret Lowin-Octeyn), many of us (myself included) simply aren't familiar enough with the details of Graham's work to fully appreciate the incisiveness of the parody. Graham aficionados might even agree that a leaner concept would have made better satire.

A shrewd choice was co-director Betteanne Terrell's new *Don Quixote*, now widely familiar as a



Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo in *Anarchic Heart*

result of Baryshnikov's televised version for A.B.T., which may have inspired some of Terrell's approaches to this very condensed, very funny, one-act version. Here, the Don himself, along with Sancho Panza, is eliminated "for economic reasons," the program states, and because in most versions they merely "wander around aimlessly and get in everyone's way..."

The ballet takes place entirely within the inn belonging to Lorenza (again the dourly appropriate Goudolova), who tries in vain to marry off her daughter, Kitri, to a wealthy nobleman in spite of Kitri's love for Basil, the local barber. Somehow the vision scene (normally a figment of the Don's imagination) occurs more or less on schedule, featuring Karina Grudj as "Amour" amid a bevy of fairies.

The final grand pas de deux of Kitri (Ludmila Bolshoya) and Basil (Alexis Ivanovitch Lermonov) is performed in a close approximation of the Petipa choreography that has decorated ballet galas the world over. Bolshoya has a fireball technique and an assertively Latin stage presence. Her accomplishments in this role included a great many fouette

turns in the pas de deux's coda. (Merely a trick, I'll grant you — but Pavlova couldn't do them!) The company bows here included an open display of rivalry between Bolshoya and Karina Grudj, another imitation of life we've come all too close to witnessing in the highest places.

Karina Grudj, whose real ability as a ballerina is not at all a laughing matter, is nevertheless the joker in the Trockadero's pack. Grudj has soft arms and a smooth back, lovely long, turned-out legs, and stretched, articulate feet that would be the envy of many young female dancers. She dances her roles virtually "straight" much of the time and when she does, whatever degree of humor as existed onstage dissipates as quickly as the flip of a lightswitch. As much real beauty as her dancing offers, I gather it is discomfiting for many people to watch; it's too easy to forget she's a man. Her presence makes a Trockadero performance a stronger statement about sexism than it could ever be otherwise.

In closing I would like to pay final tribute to the late Tamara Boumdiyeva (Sanson Candelaria), a great ballerina whose beauty, heart, and humor will never be forgotten. ●

Call for Film Fest Entries

Frameline is now accepting entries for the 11th San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, June 19-28. Held each year during San Francisco's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Celebration, the Festival brings together the best in feature, documentary, and short films and video works by and about lesbians and gay men. The Festival, the world's oldest and largest event of its kind, is sponsored by Frameline, a nonprofit lesbian and gay media organization. Frameline

presents the annual Festival to promote a demand for quality productions and wider exhibition of film and video works by and about lesbians and gay men.

The 1987 Festival will be held at the Castro Theater, Roxie Cinema, and Video Free America, presenting the best in recent lesbian and gay film and video production. Awards will be presented in several categories: Best Feature Film, Best Short Film, Best Video, Best Documentary, Best Super-8, as well as an Audience Award for best film or video in the Festival. Formats accepted are 35mm, 16mm, super-8, ¾" and ½" VHS NTSC video cassette.

The deadline for entries is Wednesday, April 15.

For more information and entry forms contact: Frameline, P.O. Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114, or call 861-5245. ●

Electric City

Electric City is pleased to announce that its next broadcast will be Thursday, Feb. 26, at 9 p.m. on Cable 6, and will include screenings at Maud's and The Village.

Electric City will be moderated by Drew Stevens, whose warmth and wit will add a personable touch to the show. ●

Death of a Garbageman, Birth of a Hit

by Steve Warren

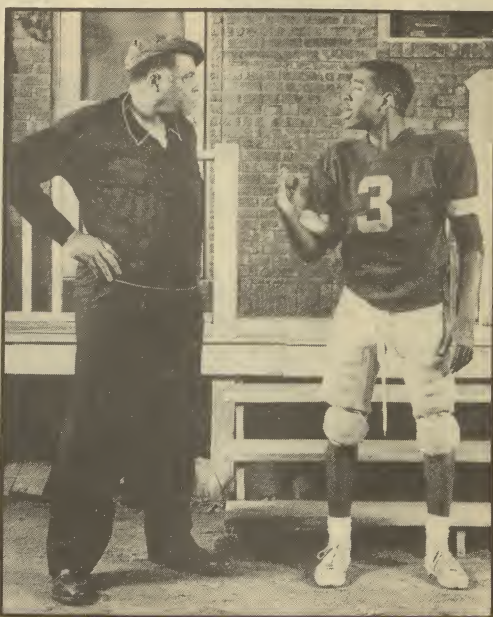
The press conference introducing *Fences* to San Francisco couldn't have been more reverent if it had been held in a cathedral to announce the discovery of the Holy Grail. The sweet smell of idealism wafted over jaded journalists who could hardly distinguish it from the aromas of Trader Vic's buffet lunch.

This was the annunciation of The Play. Present were August Wilson, who had written it; Lloyd Richards, who had directed the world premiere at Yale Repertory Theatre where he is artistic director, and remains director as The Play heads for New York; Carole Shorenstein Hays, to whom it represents the end of a long quest for a show she could produce in San Francisco and take directly to Broadway; and James Earl Jones and Mary Alice, who star in it.

Wilson said he moved from poetry to playwriting because he "was looking for a larger canvas." What he's trying to paint, beginning with *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and continuing with *Fences*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, and the forthcoming *The Piano Lesson*, is "a historical overview of the black experience in America, with a play for each decade."

"It was a play that couldn't not be done," Hays said of *Fences*. "It's been a long time since I've heard an American play really touch the heart like this." And so on and on.

Having read the published script, which Richards admitted was still being "tinkered" with,



James Earl Jones (l.) confronts Courtney B. Vance in *Fences* (Photo: R. Scherl)

I knew at least some of the talk was justified. This got me through the press conference without laughing in the wrong places, but I still approached the performance with a bit of a "show me" attitude.

Fences showed me. It's a traditional American drama in the best sense of the best traditions, a cross between *Death of a Salesman* and *A Raisin in the Sun*, and possibly the best play of its type in a generation.

Set in the unidentified city of Pittsburgh, PA, it takes place in 1957 and thereafter. James Earl Jones plays Troy Maxson, a proud, lusty, stubborn man whose intermittent good humor hides a world of hurt. He played baseball in the Negro League but was too old for the majors by the time they opened up to blacks, and earns his living as a garbageman.

Troy bullies his wife (Mary Alice) and their son (Courtney B.

Vance). He means well but is often wrong, as when he destroys the boy's future by refusing to let him accept a football scholarship, and when he gets into an affair with a younger woman and does not know how to get out of it. As much as he loves his wife he can't help seeing her as part of the problem, which makes the other woman look like part of the solution.

Bono (Ray Aranha) has been Troy's best friend for about 20 years. He's loved him as much—and as long—as anyone can. Troy also has a crazy brother (Frankie R. Faison) and a son by an earlier marriage (Charles Brown).

It's so much Troy's story—and Jones' play—that the other characters, with the exception of his wife, are somewhat shortchanged, existing only in relation to him. I'm not faulting it for that, but the other actors' agents might. The ensemble curtain call is a case of unwarranted modesty.

One fault I must point out, especially in light of Wilson's stated intent to enlighten whites about blacks, is that the speech is so authentic as to be frequently incomprehensible to non-blacks. Troy and Bono in particular sound like Amos and Andy without the enunciation.

James D. Sandefur's backyard set is grimly realistic, with all exits symbolically uphill.

"Serious theater," Jones told the press, "is an endangered species." A few more plays like *Fences* could change that.

"I think they have a job," Mary Alice said of critics. "I'm just not sure what it is." On happy occasions such as this, our job is to direct audiences to a worthy experience they might otherwise miss out on.

Black Gay History

Jule Anderson, executive director of the San Francisco African-American Historical and Cultural Society, will present *We Wear the Mask*, a talk about black gay and lesbian history, at the next general meeting of the Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, on Thursday, Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the S.F. African-American Historical and Cultural Society, Fort Mason Center, Building C, Room 165, San Francisco. General admission will be \$5; Gay Historical Society members will be admitted free. Refreshments will be served.

Anderson will discuss the lives and careers of several notable black lesbians and gay men. She will focus on the attitude of the black community towards its gay members.

Anderson served on the San Francisco School Board from 1978 to 1982. She is a former president of the San Francisco NAACP, and has been the chair of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Committee since 1984. A long-time friend of the gay community, Anderson is the only female member of the local chapter of Black and White Men Together, and is a member of the Alice B. Toklas, Harvey Milk, and Stonewall gay democratic clubs.

The San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society is sponsoring *We Wear the Mask* to help celebrate national Black History Month. Black History Month was created in 1926 by Dr. Carter Woodson, a black historian, who is sometimes called the "father of negro history."

Fences
Curran Theatre
Through March 8; 673-4400

WhoWhatWhenWhereWhyWho

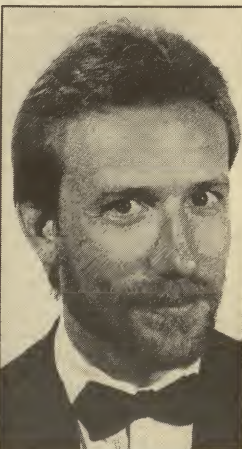
New Choral Director

The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco is very happy to announce the hiring of Pat Parr as Musical Director for its 1987 season.

Pat's theatrical experience from 1980 to the present includes musical direction of numerous musical shows in Berkeley, Yosemite National Park, the University of Santa Clara, and San Francisco State.

Since 1980 Pat has been the accompanist for the San Francisco Girls Chorus and since 1982 he has served as accompanist for the Contra Costa Chorale. In 1986 Pat was the accompanist for the San Francisco Men's Chorus Spring Concert. In 1984 and 1985 Pat was the conductor of the Transamerica Chorus for the Transamerica Corporation. He also has a great deal of church and classical experience as well as nightclub and cabaret. He has sung with Dick Kramer's chorus, and is also an arranger and a composer.

Pat is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Oklahoma City University, Bachelor of Music (piano performance major) and



Pat Parr

Bachelor of Music Education (vocal education major).

Because of Pat's busy schedule, rehearsals for the chorus have been moved from Wednesday to Thursday evenings, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Pat is holding private auditions for prospective new members. Please call for an appointment and further details at 621-3088.

Mediterranean Lesbians and Gays

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—Rita Mae Brown, 1970

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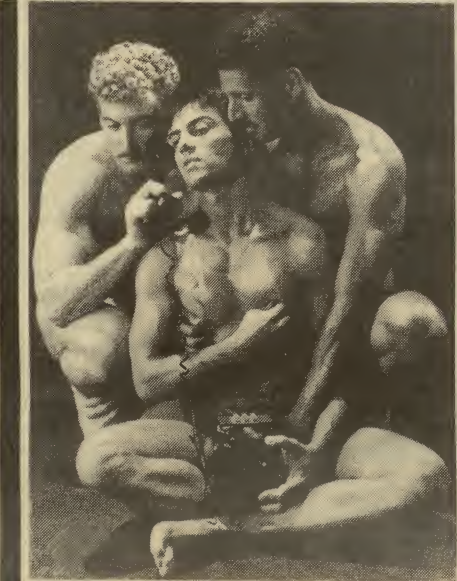
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—Iris Murdoch, 1974

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—Charlotte Bronte, 1847

George Heymont

Backstage Intrigue



Each of the women in *Broadway* has a history that could make your hair stand on end.

Why is it that some of the best pieces created for the stage and screen are those which focus on the backstage elements of show business? Could it be that the authors are writing about what they know best? Or that such shows, by definition, are true labors of love?

To my mind, most of the scripts in which show business feeds on itself for inspiration succeed because the core of each plot captures the public's fascination for what really happens behind the scenes. Strauss's *Ariadne Auf Naxos*, Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*, and Donizetti's *Viva La Mamma* all depend on a brilliant use of theatrical conventions mixed in with the added spice of backstage intrigue. Why does the backstage intrigue add to their success? Because audiences love to discover who's been sleeping around just as much as they want to know whether the ingenue who arrived at Port Authority Bus Terminal with a pair of tap shoes in her suitcase will go on to become a star.

If you don't believe me, just look at some of the classics in which show-biz has told its own story. From Hollywood we have such legendary films as *Sunset Boulevard*, *A Star is Born*, *All About Eve* and, more recently, *Cotton Club*. Broadway musicals which thrive on backstage intrigue include *42nd Street*, *Fade-Out*, *Fade-In*, and *Carnival!* (not to mention *Follies*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Funny Girl*, or *Gypsy*).

The success of these works has, in many ways, led to a blurring of previously held definitions about what constitutes opera and/or musical theater. What I find particularly interesting is how — in the course of telling their respective tales — many dramas have become musicals; several musicals have become operas, and certain operas are now emerging as an advanced form of the American musical theater. Two recent productions, though non-operatic, add to my suspicion that those works which have been written about the theater, for the theater, and by theater people form a curiously amorphous literature which defies categorization.

HARDILY HOPEFUL HOOFERS

Last fall, when I attended the

Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the first play I saw performed was an old chestnut entitled *Broadway*. Written by Philip Dunning and George Abbott, this comedy/melodrama revolved around a poor hooper's love for a chorus girl who was simultaneously being wooed by a slick gangster. The Oregon Shakespeare Festival is famous for its ensemble work, but this production offered much more than I expected. With a combination of delightful songs, tap-dancing interludes, and backstage intrigue neatly framed by William Bloodgood's unit set, the show took on a life of its own.

Although *Broadway's* plot contains every corny stereotype known to show-biz and Mafia melodramas, this production benefited in particular from Jeanne Paulsen's portrayal of the aging chanteuse, Lil, and Richard Elmore's characterization of Porky Thompson (the lead gangster's chubby-chasing henchman who insists that he likes "the kind of gal who can sit in a Morris chair — and fill it"). As the romantic leads, Brian Tyrrell and Terri McMahon were wonderfully appealing. And, while Penny Metropoulos's Pearl and John Castellanos' romantic gangster were superbly etched characterizations, it was the slickness and sensitive pacing of Pat Patton's direction which really took my breath away.

BABY, DREAM YOUR DREAM

When Michael Bennett's production of *Dreamgirls* first premiered on Broadway, the show moved with such dizzying speed it was hard to take it all in at once. Even at subsequent performances, the attention focused on Jennifer Holliday tended to upend the show, throwing several portions of it severely out of balance. I remember once discussing *Dreamgirls* with Beverly Sills, who told me that as far as she was concerned, the show was really an opera. Today, I'd tend to agree with her, although I doubt many opera singers exist who could move as fast or work as hard as the cast of *Dreamgirls* without totally ruining their voices.

Recently, when a bus-and-truck version of *Dreamgirls* performed at San Francisco's Orpheum Theatre, I was able to examine the show anew. Although

some of the stage machinery which contributed to the success of the Broadway production had obviously been eliminated for budgetary reasons, the show still raced around the stage with breathtaking speed and a driving pulse. Perhaps even more than the Broadway cast, this bus-and-truck version gave the impression of a solid ensemble effort which, despite a crucial substitution at the performance I attended, was slickly mounted and smoothly performed.

Having become more familiar with Tom Eyen's lyrics and Henry Krieger's score in recent years, I must confess I was quite startled to realize just how much of *Dreamgirls* consists of operatic recitative (there can't be more than ten minutes of spoken dialogue in the entire evening). Indeed, *Dreamgirls* strikes me as being much closer to a genuine pop-opera than any of Andrew Lloyd Webber's shows.

Alisa Gyse's transition from innocent back-up to the self-determined Deena Jones was well handled, while Sharon Brown's powerhouse voice gave a new dimension to the character of Effie White. Weyman Thompson's Curtis, Brenda Braxton's Lorrell, and Susan Beaubian's Michelle rounded out the leads with grace and style. Although the cast for this production was uniformly excellent, special mention should be given to Herbert L. Rawlings, Jr., for his animated portrayal of the crazed James Thunder Early.

Among its many blessings, *Dreamgirls* gives its audiences new insights into the price of success, for the goals one has when starting out may not always match the goals one aspires to after reaching the top. The moral of what happened to the Dreams, the Supremes, and other show business legends might best be summed up by the old warning: "Beware your fantasy — it might just come true!"

What impressed me the most, however, was the way in which *Dreamgirls* itself has survived its initial success. The work is a classic piece of music theater. Perhaps the story is more poignant than some others because so many in the audience can relate to the segment of the pop music industry whose growth is chronicled in this show. No matter how you look at it, it's a winner! ●

Clouds of Gay

With blindness, terminal illness, and nuclear holocaust clamoring for their attention, moviegoers can hardly be expected to worry about a couple of less-than-positive gay images on screen this week.

MESSY'S

Considering the number of faggots working in visual merchandising (display), it's not surprising that *Mannequin* is a contender for the year's gayest film. Considering Hollywood's record of dealing with gayness, it's not surprising *Mannequin* is one of the year's worst films.

After an animated sequence (by Sally Cruikshank) behind the opening credits, the real cartoon begins. Kim Cattrall was born 4500 years ago in Egypt (funny — she doesn't walk like an Egyptian) and has been time-traveling in search of a husband. ("Michelangelo wasn't very interested in me. He was involved with a guy named David.") She comes to life in a mannequin fashioned by Andrew McCarthy, who is too artistic to hold down a job making pizzas or trimming hedges.

With her help he becomes the top window decorator in Philadelphia, saving Estelle Getty's 100-year-old department store from being taken over by its vicious competitors. Among the villains are James Spader as a prissy prep, Christopher Maher as an oversexed Latin who loves the smell of leather, Stephen Vinovich as the rival manager who says, "Half the guys in the store wear lace underwear," and Keystone security guards led by G.W. Bailey, who expresses eagerness to strip-search McCarthy.

Your opinion of *Mannequin* will depend largely on how you feel about stereotypes, specifically Meshach Taylor's performance as "Hollywood," the most flamboyant screen queen since Benny Luke in *La Cage aux Folles*. He's referred to by other characters as "the little Mary" and "the fairy," and drives a hot pink Cadillac lest you fail to notice he's black.

McCarthy, an affable light comedian, is charming enough to evoke our sympathy as he wades through this shit. Cattrall is pretty and pretty bad, but far better than Carole Davis as McCarthy's shrewish old girlfriend. Getty may be America's fag hag number one, but she bombs out totally here, except for one great, off-the-wall line: "I don't care if he puts a rubber glove over his head and runs naked through the store yelling, 'Hey, I'm a squid!'"

It's moments like that when we see how *Mannequin* might have worked, if it had only had the things McCarthy laments the world is lacking — "character and dignity." (Galaxy, Grand Lake)

LAPSED CATHOLICISM

Speaking of Dignity, they could have had a hell of a theater party at *Impure Thoughts* if it were staying around longer. It's reviewed for the record because one of its central characters is gay.

Four guys sharing a room in purgatory plumb via flashbacks their common days at St. Jude's school to find what brought them there. On the face of it, two were angels in life and two devils, one

of the latter (Lane Davies) a hedonistic, alcoholic gay atheist who took his own life. At least he's not the one who was picked on in school. That one grew into Brad Dourif and remained a "good Catholic" all his life.

A comedy with very few laughs, *Impure Thoughts* plows much of the same soil as *Sister Mary Ignatius*... with far more objectivity. It's hard to connect the flashback boys with their older selves, and technical work is of the sort that used to keep independent films ghettoized. Still, it will strike chords in present and former Catholics. (York, closes 2/19)

DEATHSTYLES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS

Her breasts, while not inconsiderable, are the least of the assets Julie Andrews exhibits in *Duet for One*, the film that should have brought her a second Academy Award. Her full range of emotions and expressions has been shoehorned in, even to the occasional detriment of the story. Despite the shamelessness of these tactics I was ready to shift my vote to Julie from Sigourney Weaver because she delivers the goods.

Duet for One seems to be a change of pace for Soviet émigré director Andrei Konchalovsky after *Runaway Train*, but despite the lack of action elements it's still about facing up to approaching death. Andrews plays a concert violinist stricken with multiple sclerosis, "a goddam creeping paralysis." Initially she's less able to deal with losing her music than losing her life.

Psychiatrist Max von Sydow tells her ungrammatically, "There are only three things you can't live without. That's air, water and bread." Before she can accept this she has to try to drive away everyone important to her — protégé Rupert Everett, husband Alan Bates, agent Margaret Courtenay, junkman Liam Neeson whom she takes as a temporary lover, and lesbian maid Macha Meril.

Stories of terminal illness must be considered in terms of what they say to our community, and the impact of *Duet for One* is ultimately positive. An episode involving a suicide attempt, however, momentarily makes that form of death look too attractive.

Tom Kempinski and Jeremy Lipp helped the director expand Kempinski's two-character (woman and psychiatrist) play into a drama finely crafted to give its star the showcase of a lifetime, whether the Academy likes it or not. (Four Star)

LOVE IS BLIND

Paul Cox makes tidy, often quirkily funny dramas. There's not so much humor in *Cactus*, which opens with Isabelle Huppert taking such delight in Australia's visual splendor that veteran moviegoers will know she's about to lose her sight.

Sure enough, one eye is pierced in an accident and the other deteriorates rapidly. You might think she'd return to France for a last look at familiar people and places, including her estranged husband, but she stays; and because in the land of the blind the one-eyed woman is queen, friends introduce her to



Disciplinarian — Sister Gertrude (Mary Nell Santacroce) don't take no shit in *Impure Thoughts*.

blind-from-birth Robert Menzies, who would be unbearably condescended if he could see how cute he is.

Romance ensues — not love at first sight (sorry), but the slow-blooming, long-lasting kind — like cactus, an all-purpose visual symbol in this praiseworthy film. (York, 2/20-24)

SACRIFICIAL LAM

Call me an anti-intellectual snob, but I need a spoonful of sugar to help the Art go down, and *The Sacrifice* doesn't provide it. It's the kind of movie critics giggle or sleep through, then go off and write somber, glowing reviews about. The endless monologues become pene-

trating philosophical insights and the stark visuals become metaphors — or vice versa. We urge you to go and watch with a straight face for two and a half hours, and to feel stupid if you're not as edified and enriched as we pretend to have been.

The late Andrei Tarkovski's last film begins on Erland Josephson's birthday. He talks for nearly an hour to his temporarily mute son and Otto the postman until, with friends and family gathered for a party, Something Cataclysmic happens, probably The Bomb. Life goes on but the world looks grim and "colorized."

Josephson gets religion and offers God a sacrifice if the world

can be spared. Otto tells him he can right things by screwing Maria, a servant who may be a witch. Something must work, because color is restored in the morning.

From this bare-bones outline of one level of the plot, you can see why *The Sacrifice* took Europe by storm, opening on the heels of the Chernobyl incident. Swedish voices have been furnished for all of the international cast, some very poorly dubbed. Sven Nykvist's photography is brilliant as usual, but his limited range of subjects will prove dull for most viewers.

Unless you really like this kind of Heavy Cinema, take it on the

(Continued on page 38)

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Mr. Marcus

February Madness on Fast Forward

Whew! Only one more week in February and the active ones in the community may take a well-deserved rest. The weather is great on and off; but whichever it is, it has not deterred big turnouts for either commercial or charitable events.

Last Thursday, with the city under a rainy deluge, the Pilsner Inn was packed to the rafters with those who felt like a trip into nostalgia was important. They had a hula-hoop contest, a Queen and King of the Hop, and a buffet to end all buffets. Needless to say, Ms. Joan Eva Duarte Peckerhead assumed the MC chores and as usual, wowed the crowd. Mark "Bubbles" Abramson managed to get into drag in a record 11 minutes with the assistance of Big Jim Beard. Pilsner High never looked lovelier. The ones who went to the pains of getting into drag proved that taste was tossed to the winds, and several people expressed dismay that Jim Cvitanich didn't don his pink "do" for this year's celebration. It was lots of fun for one of the city's most popular neighborhood bars and their patrons. Hula Hoop competition isn't all that easy, is it Mark Podhorecki?

Valentines were shuttled back and forth all over town. One queen was so upset she only got two, that she sent them back marked "refused." There was a big turnout at the Endup for the Erotic Red Party, and Trocadero Transfer rang out with lots and lots of red dressed dudes for their annual Red Party.

Another horde of leathermen converged Saturday on the digs of Richard Rollins and Craig Amaral over in San Pablo and honey, the divorces that occurred after that soiree are still pending all over the Bay Area.

Sunday, the masseurs and chiropractors gathered at the



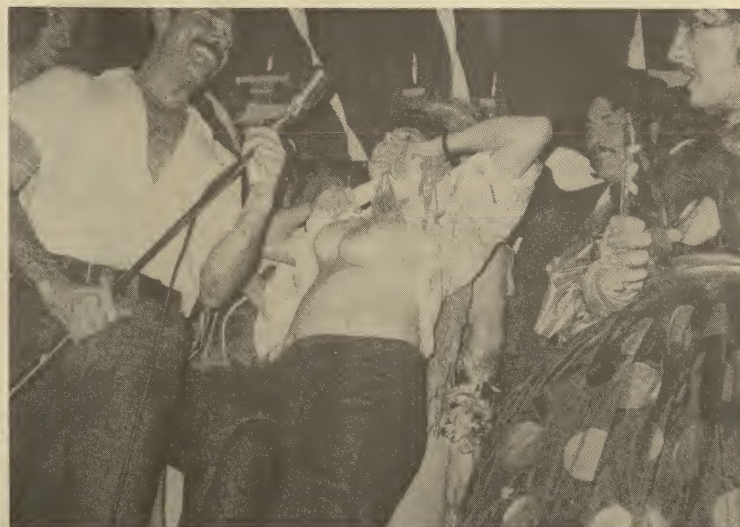
Michael Chase (L.) and Mr. Marcus received commendations from the SF Board of Supervisors at the AIDS Emergency Fund dinner
(Photo: R. Pruzan)

S.F.-Eagle to volunteer their services, talent, and expertise for the AIDS Emergency Fund, and bodies in all manner of dress and undress were sprawled around the patio getting fingered and palmed to death. Between auctioning off the masseurs and chiropractors as well as auctioning off choice items from various donors, some \$4,300 was raised for the ever-mounting needs of the AIDS Emergency Fund. Videos from Le Salon and Falcon studios went out for auction as well as various dinners, cocktails, and weekend rooms at various resorts up at the RushRiv. All in all, it was a productive week, fun for all, and \$\$ added to the coffers of the AIDS Emergency Fund.

And it didn't end there. Monday night, the Warehouse on 9th Street hosted some 200 people at a smashing dinner to kick off the 1987 fundraising campaign for the AIDS Emergency Fund. My honorary co-chair, Sharon McNight, wowed the crowd with a magnificent set while Danny

Williams zeroed in on the high, the low, the mighty, and the not-so-mighty. Channels 2, 4, 5, and 7 chronicled it all for the news that night and the place was crawling with reporters from the Chronicle, Paris Match, and other specialized publications. The staff of the Warehouse deserve a big "congrats" for their first big party. The place was decked out in flawless decorations, live plants, donated wines, donated help, and every politico in town including Nancy Pelosi, Supervisors Hongisto (a new proud papa!), and Molinari. Needless to say, Louise Molinari stole the spotlight (they all adore her!) and Harry Britt made points all around just by making a very, very rare appearance South of Market. It was a fabulous event, and I wish you could have been there. Supervisor Hongisto passed out commendations from the Board of Supervisors to Hank Cook, Rick Booth, George Burgess, and Margo the Magnificent. Tim Wolfred from

(Continued on next page)



A verifiable female was crowned King of the Pilsner Sock Hop

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

the S.F. AIDS Foundation was on hand with his gorgeous lover, and the evening was most festive to say the least.

The financial goals of the AIDS Emergency Fund are higher this year than ever and your continued support is much appreciated! And don't let up with your \$\$\$. If you can't afford the benefits, you could always volunteer to help, couldn't you?

★ ★ ★

So you didn't get in on the action last week? Hey, there's lots more coming your way. Tonight, the 1988 competition at the Eagles' Bare Chest contest begins at 2200. They'll be looking for Mr. January 1988 and Phoebe Planters will be one of the judges, so come on down and join the fun. You can sail through Friday doing whatever turns you on.

Saturday night, the new emperor and empress will be crowned as Sable and Matthew take their final bows. The voting last weekend was a nightmare, with charges and counter charges of paid voters, etc. etc. ad nauseum. They were even offering \$4 in cash to Tenderloin down and outs for one of the candidates, it has been charged.

Saturday too, Murder Unlimited will hold another mystery night at John's Grill (63 Ellis St.) from 1900 to 2200 with KJAZ on hand. If you've ever been to one of these mystery parties they are a hoot.

The S.F. Jacks will celebrate their 4th anniversary March 30, so you should gear up for that jack-a-thon.

The 15 Association is celebrating its 7th anniversary (already?) this Saturday night at 260 Shotwell with a \$10 tariff in advance or \$12 at the door.

And over at Amelia's, there's another fundraiser for Int. Ms. Leather; it's a slave auction with a tea dance from 1900 to 2100 and at 2200 the fun begins. Rachel Williams will be the host(ess) for this one, and it sounds just fembulous!

Sunday, Up Your Alley Productions will present a "Sho Nuff" Mardi Gras Beer Bust at the S.F. Eagle patio. They'll be serving authentic New Orleans Shrimp Creole, and tons of crayfish are being flown in direct from New Orleans for the 1500 to 1800 benefit. By the way, the Ringold Alley Fair will be held on Dore St. this year, making it even cozier if you're into crowd body rubbing.

If you survive all that, you'll be in good shape for the next weekend when awards will be given out all over the place; what with

the Barbary Coasters M/C Bike Awards and the Cable Car Awards on the same night, it will be a chore and a half for some of the nominees who are on the lists at both shows. How this happened is beyond description. Two awards shows on the same night. Now where is the unity in this?

DISH LAND IS MINE

Jon Snell, owner of the Desparadoes in San Jose, is hot on another new bar project. They're working fast and furious to open the St. Johns Bar in downtown San Jose sometime in May, and from what I've heard about the place, it will be hot hot hot!

And they're still doing a landslide business at the Patio Cafe on Castro. They just added a new busgirl to the staff and her name is Erin Gould. Last Sunday one of the owners had Erin moving tables all over the place. One of the customers was so upset by this, he jumped and helped Erin out. That's okay Erin—you'll be a star there!

And over at the Lineup, the hottest dude on the premises besides Jason and Carol is Juan Carro, who effortlessly performs his duties, causing heads to turn each time he passes by!

The Cycle Runners are having their annual Toga Party Friday, March 13, at the California Club, and this year the competition includes the crowning of Caligula! Here's your chance to get real decadent and win a title. Sounds like Randy Johnson's cup of tea. There will also be an amateur physique(?) contest and a living statue contest as well. Ducats are \$10, so get yours now and don't be left out.

Regarding the so-called feud between myself and Randy Johnson! Hog wash! Randy and I used to be roommates and whoever is doing the stirring should be horse whipped! Right Randy? I expect written confirmation from you, darrrrrrling.

LeSalon just released two hot new videos this week. *Boys Camp Memories* and *Collage 2* hit the circuit this week and boy, do they sizzle! I also goofed last week about Falcon Pac 50. The film is from Falcon. Friendly competitors in this town, they provide endless viewing hours to porn video aficionados. Le Salon and Falcon both have been very generous donating videos to various benefits, and that is definitely the community spirit.

National Condom Week ends this weekend and I just know you've all been taking heed about this important element in your



The 10th anniversary party at the Artemis Cafe

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

daily interactions. Be sure you make it to the Watering Hole Saturday for the celebration finale by the Mid-City Consortium with a beer bust and all the rubbers you want—free! (the rubbers). The Beer Bust will cost you \$10 from 1600 to 1900 hours!

It's 0320 hours and I'm wrapping this up. I hope David (Stella)

Stoll survived the past weekend. The last time I saw him, he was passed out in the office at the Eagle after a most boisterous evening at the AIDS Fund party. When last heard from, Stella was muttering, "What's the difference between an anal thermometer and an oral thermometer?" Ask Sonny Cline. Also

about the blue Smurfs.

Hey boys and girls, have a great weekend. You too Kim Corsaro. Keep your legs crossed, support all the worthwhile charities, and remember: A man may dwell so long upon being a star or a winner of awards that it may make him a pitiful prisoner of his egotism.

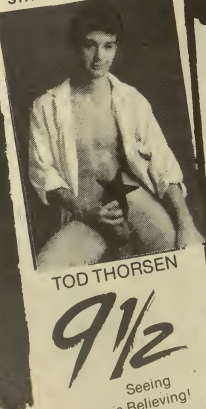
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Shadow Morgan, Ms. Leather SF, shows her winning form (Photo: Marcus)

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Benny

Jacqueline—Where are you?



A Valentine Nymph arrives at the SF Hotel to vote for
Royalty
(Photo: S. Martin)

Dearest! Where are you? You have just missed a fun mid-winter season of campaigning for the offices of Emperor and Empress. Oh yes, it is that time of the year again. It just seems like yesterday that we were gathering up the voters to run to the polls. It's been a year since the public elected Matthew Brown and Sable Clown as the 14th Emperor and 21st Empress of San Francisco, respectively. Matt and Sable have had a whirlwind year of events to attend and you know the old saying: "how time flies when you're having fun." They have tried to be everywhere, but there never seems to be enough time to attend all of the numerous events. Why, with out-of-town coronations, motorcycle runs, charity fundraisers of every kind, and other royalty functions, it's amazing they can keep track of themselves.

Thank the gods they have members of their court and cabinet to help them organize, schedule, and coordinate their appearances. I know that when I was "La Empressia," I was never home long enough to warm up the home fires. I'd rush home from work to change clothes for either a function or to attend a meeting. There were times when Rich and I would have to attend five different events in one evening. Talk about orchestration! It felt like all we did was get in and out of a car, run into a function, spend 15 minutes or so, and then off to another event. A lot of people don't realize how hectic it can be. Then there are those events you and your court are organizing. Which means you have to be out promoting them in the bars and at other functions. Hopefully, people will remember that you supported their function, so they will support yours—"you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours."

It is not easy being elected monarchs, and the preception that it's all fun and games cannot

be farther from the truth. Most of the titles in the royalty trip are working offices. Granted, there are some who are elected who do nothing towards working with the community, but they are in the minority. Most of the people who are elected to any of the royalty offices are dedicated to working with and for the community. Each of them have their special cause for which they want to work. However, on a united front, a lot of the emphasis is being placed on raising money for AIDS research, care, and education. Until this dreadful disease can be effectively stopped or controlled, the all-out efforts to fund the war against it will not be stopped. The involvement doesn't stop with just the elected monarchs and their courts. The governing councils and/or boards of these titles are also extremely dedicated. The members of these various organizations, who work in conjunction with the reigning monarchs or as a group, have earmarked a specific AIDS charity for which they are raising funds. The court trip has, over the last 22 years, raised millions of dollars for many charities and to fund the fight against non-partisan initiatives that would have effectively taken away our rights as gay people.

There are those who would argue that the drag queens and their male counterparts spent a lot of money on their "drag" and could donate the money spent on such to charity. True, but what about those who spend an equal amount of money on their drag, i.e., leather, yuppie, or clone. No one ever questions the amount of money spent on their drag. Remember, drag is drag is drag. We all have a costume we feel comfortable in and thus can be effective in it. Some of us like to wear wigs, heels, dresses, and make-up. That doesn't take away from the fact that despite the look, we are

(Continued on next page)



Emperor Matt Brown casts his ballot (Photo: S. Martin)

Remy

(Continued from previous page)

working towards the ultimate goal of helping our fellow human beings. An appreciation for the fact that we are gutsy enough to put on this type of "costume" and traipse around town raising money is proof enough of our dedication to the community. We know who we are and are proud of that fact, and for others to look upon us as being weird or an insult to the community is extremely shallow and narrow minded. These are the people who need a course in community awareness and gay history.

Enough of this soapbox stuff. My congratulations and thanks to both Matthew and Sable for their year as our Emperor and Empress. As they step aside on Coronation Night, this Saturday at the Giftcenter, fond memories will be recalled, and we can only wish them a well-earned rest. Also, the members of their court and supporters should also be honored for their dedication towards these two monarchs. A very special thank you to Andy Black, the Minister of Information, who has kept all of us informed via his "Notes on an Imperial Sleeve" about what was happening in the Court of Legends, Myths and Magic. Your Most Imperial Majesties—thank you and best wishes for your future!

I wonder who will succeed Matthew and Sable as the 15th Emperor and 22nd Empress? Last Saturday, the candidates for both of these offices and their committees were hard at work rounding up voters in bars and at private parties in hopes of winning the coveted titles. Speculation was that the race for Emperor between Rick Manring and Patrick McGonigle was going to be a tight one and too close to call. The contest for Empress has seen some shifts in support and what was thought to be a race between Tina Tanner and Tatiana has turned out to be one between Lilly Street and Tina. One should never discount any of the three candidates. Lily's entrance into the race—considered a "dark horse" candidate—could be the pivotable point of the election. Tina and Tatiana have a good support base, but Lily has cut into both of these from what I've been hearing. This is going to be a juicy one! There very well could be some surprises on Coronation Night when the winner is announced. So hold on to your seats; it's going to be a bumpy ride! I can't wait, and I think I'm going to be as nervous as the candidates. . . tingle. . . tingle. . . tingle.

IN LOVING TRIBUTE

Thursday, Feb. 5, San Francisco's Gay Community lost another dedicated worker, title holder, and loving friend. Don Lemke, aka Parkay, left his earthly home to join his two dear friends, Trixie and Lady Gene, after having waged a valiant struggle against AIDS.

Don was born on Aug. 25, 1954 to Earl and Virginia Lemke in Bremen, Indiana. He graduated from LaVillie Junior/Senior High School in Lakeville and went on to receive his Associate of Arts degree in Business from the College of Commerce in South Bend. During his senior year in high school, Don was instrumental in distributing arm bands for the MIA [Missing In Action] armed forces in Vietnam and organized a parade in South Bend to make the public aware and encourage community involvement in getting our government to press the communist regime to cooperate in identifying our MIAs. After college, he spent three years in South Bend and then moved to Phoenix for another three years. He moved to San Francisco in 1981 and fell in love with our city. He immediately got involved in the community. He joined the San Francisco GDI Motorcycle Club and was a active member and served as its Recording Secretary. Don was also an Honorary Member of the Barbary Coasters M/C and the S.F. GDI M/C. He told his sister, Peggy, that he knew San Francisco was going to be his home long before moving here. Once he was here, he said, "I'm finally home!"

Don was one of the main people who persuaded me to run for the office of Empress and worked extremely hard on my campaign committee. Our success in attaining the office was due to his commitment of following everything through to the end result. In 1984, he was a contestant in the Closet Ball and placed second in the competition. Later that year he helped get Trixie Trash elected Grand Duchess and then ran for and was elected Miss Gay San Francisco. Both he and Bruce Harrelson, Mr. Gay San Francisco 1984, worked tirelessly raising money for charity and was one of the most successful Mr. and Miss Gay San Franciscos in recent history.

His candid sense of humor and plain honesty endeared him to many. Oft times I was the brunt of his comments, but sensing the true meaning, it worked to both of our understandings of each other. As we laughed, played, and cried together, we all grew in ways that helped all of us in life. During his illness, he related to his

roommate, Larry Parsons, and his sister that "We should live each day to the fullest and not worry over the little things that take away from enjoying life."

Don is survived by his parents, Earl and Virginia of Phoenix, his brother Douglas of Lakeville, his sister Peggy Hann of Pleasant Hill, his niece and nephew, Katie and Jeffrey, relatives in Indiana, his roommate Larry Parsons, and his many friends here in San Francisco.

Services were held for Don Friday, Feb. 6, at Comsky-Roche. His family and friends were there to celebrate his life. His family wishes to thank all who expressed their condolences and remembrances made in Don's name to the San Francisco Hospice. Peace

smiles upon thee, dear friend, fare-thee-well until we meet again.

DO DA DE

The Warlocks invite you to attend their Pre-Awards Party and Introduction of Officers for 1987 on Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Showfolks of America Hall, 827 Hyde St., from 4 to 5:45 p.m. prior to the Barbary Coasters Motorcycle Awards. Admittance is by invitation or club overlay. Also, the club would like you to join them at their first Open Meeting on Friday, March 6, at the Powerhouse starting at 8:30 p.m. There will be a raffle for a ticket to their Easter Run on April 19. The raffle will benefit the San Francisco AIDS Food

Bank and for every can of non-perishable food you bring, it will entitle you to a raffle ticket. See you there!

The Constantines of the Bay Area will be hosting their Mix and Match Party and introduction of their officers for 1987 on Friday, Feb. 27. For the location and particulars, please contact any member of the club. Also, congratulations to Dan Jean-sonne, Road Captain of the club and President of the Forum, for being chosen President of the Year at the Cheaters Convention 1986-87, which was held on Saturday, Jan. 31.

Congratulations and thanks to the California Eagles Motorcycle Club for a very fun Third Anni-

(Continued on next page)

"My girlfriend's gone and I'm horny."



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Another Dry Run

DICK WALTERS

Want to wish John Kehr, Jr. aka Virginia, a very Happy Birthday today the 19th of February. Hope you have many more kid.

The Mark Twain Hotel is losing its star bar manager, David, who is moving to Palma De Mallorca, Spain where he will be opening a bar and restaurant with three friends called La Pergola. You'll be missed by a great many people, David, here in the city and in Sausalito.

Need some plants or great flowers? Try Foressence at 55 Cyril Magnin St. in the Ramada Hotel. Great plants at great low prices.

Bruce, formerly of the Stallion, is now at the Watering Hole South of Market and seems to fit in great, so drop by and say hi.

Retraction from last column: Joe Ellis is still in power in the River and at the popular Comstock Club here in the city. Thank you, John Schmidt, for the info.

Understand Empress Jose will be here for the Coronation on the 21st and that Empress II, Bella, will celebrate her 20th year as Empress and will do a spectacular at the Coronation that shouldn't be missed, so be sure to get your tickets as they are going fast. Is Mame reappearing, Bella?

Rex and Maxine celebrated their 25th year together at Ginger's Too Monday the 9th with a host of friends and a great dinner and a good party.



Empress Reba and Czarina Sweet Lips at the Tavern Guild meeting at The Stallion (Photo: Bruce)

Helen Trent is the reigning Home Coming Queen and don't forget it, Gretta.

Ginger's Too on Sixth Street is having the Gay Softball League meeting this Saturday at noon, so remember all of you ball players to be there on time and yes there will be a surprise bartender to help dispense drinks fast.

Twelve from N.Y.C. came to S.F. two weeks ago for a four-day holiday and to get warm and visit with Maggie Jiggs (who was a no show) ... Frank Tambarello of Michael's Thing covered the event for N.Y.C. Glad you guys stopped in anyway because you were a lot of fun. Don't forget that the great Michael Greer is at

the City Cabaret tonight, Feb. 19, at 10 p.m. for one performance only, so don't miss it. We are looking forward to seeing you, Michael.

Tonight is also the 18th Anniversary of the very popular Pendulum, and they are having a biggie of a party so do try to stop by for a drink—and some fun.

I wonder why Mark from The Special cannot turn on the water? Another dry run, Mark.

Nice luncheon at the Elephant Walk last week with D.S., and thanks for the great drinks Tommy.

Don't forget the two big events coming up. Coronation on Satur-

day the 21st and of course the fantastic Cable Car Awards on the 28th. This should be one of the largest Cable Car Awards ever, what with so many politicians running for one or two different offices.

Mike Dooley of the White Swallow certainly is looking great with all the weight he has lost, and nice to see the White Swallow still has a great group of fun customers—hi Jim Anderson. ●

Remy

(Continued from previous page)

versary Party which was held on Saturday, Feb. 7, at the S.F. Eagle Patio. I had a good time, and good luck to all of you in 1987.

Don't forget the Barbary Coasters Motorcycle Awards at the Showfolks of America Hall on the 28th. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the awards and show starting at 8 p.m. Also, the Cable Car Awards on the same night at the Giftcenter on Brannan and Eighth streets. I'll be at both events; see you at either one.

The S.F. GDI Club will be hosting their Winner's Circle after the B.C. Awards at the Transfer. It will follow immediately after the awards, as fast as you can get your motorcycles, cars, or footsies there!

That's it for now. Good luck to the candidates, the nominees, and the winners. Smooches to all. P.S.: The Montessa, Roger, and Tommy Turner say Aloha from Hawaii, wishing you were there! Aloha everyone! ●

Writers and Artists Donate Royalties to Help People With AIDS

"AIDS is occasion for awareness practice in love, in health, in taking care of yourself and others," said poet Allen Ginsberg upon donating his *Giorno Poetry Systems* royalty check to the newly founded AIDS Treatment Project. Joining Ginsberg in support of the AIDS Treatment Project are William S. Burroughs, Laurie Anderson, Philip Glass, Keith Haring, Meredith Monk, and other artists who have appeared on the *Giorno Poetry Systems* record label.

The artists supporting the AIDS Treatment Project are now passing along the challenge to their fans in asking them to contribute \$8.98, the price of an lp record, to the Project. To give to the AIDS Treatment Project, fans can mail their checks to *Giorno Poetry Systems Institute, Inc.*, 222 Bowery, New York, NY 10012. Contributions are tax deductible. ●

Charity Drag Ball Taking Off

Night Of A Thousand Gowns is attracting guests from all across the U.S. and Canada. Demand for tickets to the nation's first national gay charity ball, to be held at New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, has been fantastic, reports the event's organizers. Representatives and entourages are attending from many national organizations, including the Miss Gay America and the Miss Gay USA pageants.

To receive a formal invitation, debutante's guide, and travel and hotel information, call (212) 861-1139 or write: Gowns, 106¼ Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016. ●



Karl's Calendar

THURSDAY 2/19

Imperial Court In-Town Awards, Amelia's, 8 p.m., \$3.

Bare Chest Contest, S.F. Eagle, 10:30 p.m.

FRIDAY 2/20

Imperial Court Out-of-Town Awards, San Franciscan Hotel (Crystal Ballroom), 7 p.m., \$5.

SATURDAY 2/21

Imperial Coronation 1987, Giftcenter Pavilion, doors open 6 p.m., coronation begins 7 p.m., tickets \$30, \$20, and \$15.

SUNDAY 2/22

Imperial Court Victory Brunch, San Franciscan Hotel (Crystal Ballroom), 11 a.m., \$12.

Up Your Alley Mardi Gras Beer Bust, S.F. Eagle 3-6 p.m., \$7.

Compiled by Diedre

Flavor Gel For Condoms

A Tasty Kind of Love, a flavor gel designed to eliminate the harsh rubber taste of condoms for those who enjoy oral sex, is being introduced during National Condom Week.

"The question that kept on coming up at safe sex forums I attended was why can't condoms be flavored. The condom manufacturers don't care, so I decided to develop this product," said its creator, Jeff Satkin.

The water-based gel comes in a soft plastic tube and is designed solely for oral use and is not designed to be a lubricant for intercourse. The gel flavor is an FDA approved natural flavor blend.

A tube costs \$5.95 plus \$1.50 and is available from A Tasty Kind of Love, Inc., P.O. Box 2596, Muhlenberg Station, Plainfield, NJ 07060-0596. ●

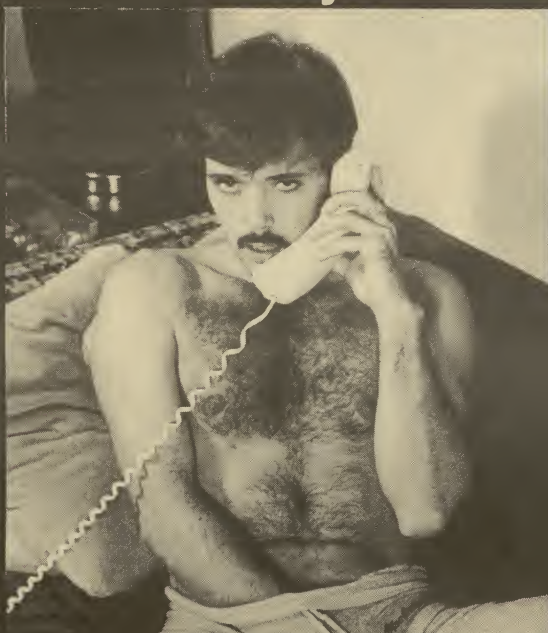
Women's Leather Tea Dance

International Ms. Leather, Inc. will sponsor a Women's Leather Tea Dance and Slave Auction at Amelia's, 647 Valencia St., Sunday, Feb. 22. The Tea Dance will be held from 7 to 9 p.m., and the Slave Auction from 9 p.m. to midnight. Host for the evening is Rachael Williams. There will also be a special guest appearance by 1987 Ms. San Francisco Leather, Shadow Morgan. Admission is \$3 at the door. Tickets, T-shirts, and posters for the 1st Annual International Ms. Leather contest will be available at this event.

Proceeds will benefit the 1st Annual International Ms. Leather contest.

Proceeds from the 1st Annual International Ms. Leather contest will benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund, Coming Home Hospice, AWARE, Women's AIDS Network, and The AIDS Alternative Healing Project. ●

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Band Foundation Board Elections

The San Francisco Band Foundation is seeking individuals from the community for election of the 1987-1988 Board of Directors.

The SFBF is a non-political non-profit community organization with an annual budget of \$150,000 (1986). The Foundation includes the following groups:

- The San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps (a concert and marching band and twirling corps);
- The San Francisco FLAG Corps (a flag corps);
- The Tap Troupe (a dance company);
- City Swing (a stage band);
- The Vocal Minority (a vocal ensemble);
- The Aides-De-Camp (volunteer group and parade color guard).

Board members (currently 18) are elected at-large by the membership during March of each year for a 12-month term. The position requires about 10 hours each month. Board members from all segments of the community are encouraged to seek the position. All backgrounds are welcome.

Persons other than board members can assist the board by becoming Associates. For information on the Board of Directors or the Associates call the Foundation Office at 621-5619.

Alga's New Year's Banquet

The Association of Lesbian and Gay Asians presents its sixth annual Chinese New Year's Banquet to celebrate Year 4685 (1987), the Year of the Hare.

The banquet will be held on Friday, Feb. 20, at the restaurant Red's at 1475 Polk (and California) in San Francisco. A no-host cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m., and a nine-course dinner will follow at 7 p.m.

The cost for the event is \$25 per person. The cost for ALGA members is \$20 per person. Those who wish to attend the no-host cocktail hour only will be charged \$5. Tickets should be secured in advance by calling 861-4767 or writing ALGA at 55 Sutter St. #97, San Francisco, CA 94104.

The banquet will conclude with a short program featuring special guests, surprise entertainment, and a raffle drawing.

The nine-course dinner, specially prepared for ALGA, will include Peking duck and tasty buns, juicy Mandarin ribs, spicy minced squid in lettuce cups, and thick prawns in a sizzling chile sauce.

ALGA is a San Francisco-based organization, 100 members strong, dedicated to insuring positive images and support for all Asian American gays and lesbians nationwide. ALGA is well-known for its advocacy role in the community, its social events ranging from parties to potluck picnics, and its fundraising efforts for AIDS research.

For more information about the banquet and other ALGA events, call 861-4767.

Gay Feds Elect New Board

Federal Lesbians and Gays recently elected its 1987 Board of Directors. The new Board consists of David Corkrum, Federal Aviation Administration; Joe Durbano, Internal Revenue Service; John Linngren, General Service Administration; and Janet Allen, Bob McMeachin, John-Michael Olexy, and Ted Sloan, all of the Social Security Administration.

FLAG is an association of gay and lesbian Federal employees offering advice and support in the absence of legal protection. Further information on the group may be obtained by calling 695-9174.

Attn: Aspiring Playwrights

The Whitman-Walker Clinic, a direct-service provider for the Washington metropolitan area for people with AIDS, is soliciting original scripts suitable for production in the late Fall. Scripts must fit the following criteria:

- unproduced, uncopyrighted, full-length script;
- received by May 1 (decisions rendered by June 1);
- content must in some manner address the social and/or political issues associated with the AIDS crisis;
- may be written in any genre (realistic, documentary, comedy, musical, revue, mixed media, noir, etc.);
- must agree to allow the Whitman-Walker Clinic to be the sole producer, director, and beneficiary of the first production (seven performances) of the accepted script;
- if no script is found to be acceptable in the judgement of the Play Review Committee, then no script will be chosen or produced;
- a self-addressed, stamped envelope must be included to have scripts returned.

Call (202) 332-5295 or (202) 328-3618 for more information.



Warren

(Continued from page 31)

sacrificial lam when *The Sacrifice* comes your way. (Opera Plaza)

CHICKEN AND THE HAWK

When Clint Eastwood abandons action for sentiment his movies die the death. Sylvester Stallone goes the same route in *Over the Top*, but hedges his bets with arm wrestling matches and truck stunts to please the action crowd.

The film's core, however, is a predictable tale of Hawk the trucker (Stallone) trying to become a father to his 12-year-old son (David Mendenhall) when the wife (Susan Blakely) he abandoned years before is dying. The point is made repeatedly that Hawk is really a great guy who made a mistake and has been paying for it and trying to make it good ever since. The real villain is Blakely's wealthy father, Robert Loggia, who will stop at nothing to keep his grandson.

When Hawk goes to the arm wrestling championship in Las Vegas, filmed with an effective documentary touch, it's implicit — according to Hollywood rules — that when he wins one fight he'll win the other as well. There's a great similarity between the philosophies of champion Rick Zumwalt, his opponent, ("Being number one is everything. There is no second place") and Hawk ("The world meets nobody halfway. If you want it you got to take it"), but the kid gets off a great piece of heresy for a Stallone movie: "There's more to life than just muscles."

Two scenes are totally irresponsible. Hawk lets an unlicensed, inexperienced 12-year-old drive his big rig on the road, and engineers an arm wrestling match on the glass top of a pinball machine.

Over the Top hasn't much blood, but plenty of sweat and tears. (Coliseum, Empire, New Mission, Century Plaza)

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BOOKS

Sexual Ethics

Sex Positive

by Larry J. Uhrig

Alyson Publications, \$6.95

by Paul Reed

This compact little book is a discussion of the prevailing sexual ethic in America today. It is also an agenda of the steps we need to take in order to change that sexual ethic, which the author sees as a negative one, to a positive, spiritually enriching ethic.

Hence, the book's title, *Sex Positive*, refers to the positive sexual ethic that the author — a minister with the Metropolitan Community Church — envisions as the potential outgrowth of gay liberation. In fact, Rev. Uhrig sees the gay movement as an integral part — as evidence, if you will — of the move towards a "sex positive" ethic in America.

Uhrig's basic tenet is that Judeo-Christian religions have

fostered a largely negative, binding, and festering sexual attitude. We have all grown up with this negative ethic, but many of us — especially the active members of the gay community — have managed to break through into a sexual ethic that is much more positive in its wide-ranging acceptance, love, and openness with regard to all forms of sexuality.

Uhrig asks: "How shall we become free of the sex negative influence of our culture?" And he answers by asserting that we overcome negativity by stepping out of the traditional heterosexual socio-cultural structures which seek to bind us. In so doing, we are helping to create a new structure from which will arise a new ethic, a sexual ethic that will embrace all forms of sexual expression.

This is an interesting little book, though for some readers it may be a bit stiff, a bit easy. Many of us are quite aware that we are oppressed by a prevailing sexual ethic that is negative and ill-suited to the realities of modern relationships, and we know that to change things we must accept the challenge of being pioneers.

But for readers who would like a straightforward discussion of just why and how a sexual ethic can be challenged and changed, *Sex Positive* presents its arguments clearly and simply. And at this time, when we really do feel the effects of sexual oppression, it is good to have a new book out that shows — that reminds — just what it is that we are struggling towards.

See You in the Funny Papers

MeatMen: An Anthology of Gay Male Comics

Edited by Winston Leyland; Introduction by Jerry Mills

Gay Sunshine Press, \$10.95

by Paul Reed

It was a clever idea to collect a sampling of gay male comics spanning some 30 years and representing everything from camp to raunch. *MeatMen* is a real sampler, too — showing a diversity in styles, subjects, themes, and political statements in this curiously overlooked art form.

Having never been much of a comics fan, I approached *MeatMen* with skepticism, as something I probably would not enjoy. But Jerry Mills' fascinating introduction — which serves not only as a preface but as an important portrait of gay history — startled me into realizing just what a rich and varied tradition we have in gay male comics.

The cartoons are handsomely

presented on good paper with excellent printing in an oversized format. *MeatMen* is a fine addition to the gay archives, and a real treat, too. Blade's work is represented with "Truck Hiker" and "Glory Story." Tom of Finland and The Hun are each represented, as well as panels by other artists I had never encountered before.

Especially appealing and fun are Bruce Billings' "Castro" cartoons, comics that take one back to a time now gone — and that demonstrates just how neatly a comic strip can capture a mood and become a bit of documentary history in itself.

MeatMen is one of the most original and refreshing gay books to come along in recent years.

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William Mark Pirring



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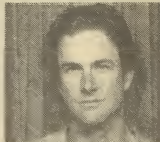
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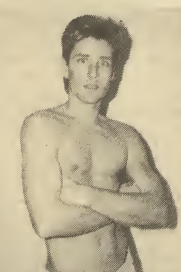
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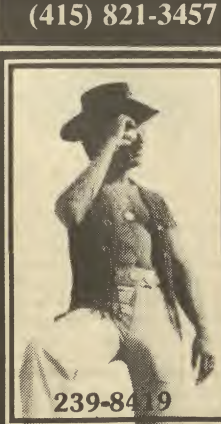
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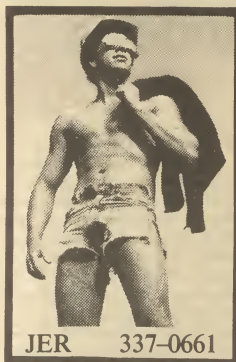


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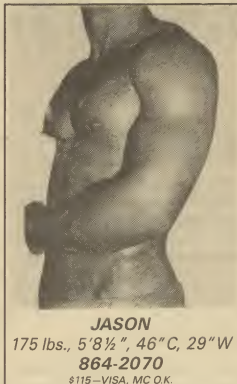
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8" + cut. Likes to lean back
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Smth., well defined swimmer's
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2 Hot Jocks
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25, smooth, hndsm, hot top.
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Gentle Top, 5'5", 142, Hairy.
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Short, intelligent bodybuilder (5'7", 165
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Well equipped game room, creative mind.
Dominant but level-headed, discreet, and
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MITCH: 21, 5'11", 160lbs,
Clean cut — Well groomed
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BRIAN/28, 5'10", 160lbs.

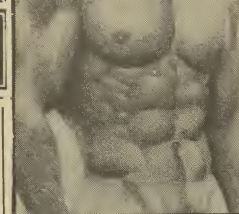
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tiny, talented hands will lovingly

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★ \$25-Hot Athlete. Hung nice ★

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28 yr. old Blond Bodybuilder,

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Perfect Top, very handsome

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Dick 441-1707 24 Hrs

Michigan Boy

BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

From Lavender-U Joggers To San Francisco FrontRunners — You've Run a Long Way, Baby!

by Jim Miller

The San Francisco FrontRunners, oldest and most renowned of the 23 international FrontRunner organizations, celebrated its lucky 13th anniversary this month. Why lucky? Membership

continues to grow and now stands at 166 members, one of the highest of all the FrontRunner clubs.

The San Francisco FrontRunners began back in 1974 as the Lavender-U Joggers, switched to

the name FrontRunners in 1979 and then to San Francisco FrontRunners in 1983 as various FrontRunner clubs began to emerge nationwide. Today the club boasts of branches in Canada and in

Australia as well as five clubs in the state of California alone.

At their 13th anniversary celebration and business meeting following the Dolores Park fun run (see photo), new officers were

group's photographer.

The San Francisco FrontRunners has actively participated in the Gay Games, Bay to Breakers, the SF Marathon, and in Gay Run. The group is presently involved with the SF Track & Field club in presenting the 8th annual Gay Run on the second weekend of July in Golden Gate Park. Proceeds from Gay Run '87 will benefit various SF AIDS organizations. This year's event should prove to be the group's largest fundraiser ever. All are encouraged to participate. Please contact Bob at 552-1406 for more information.

'Why lucky?'

elected: Chris Charette, Pres.; Jim Miller, Vice Pres.; Doug Farson, Sec.; and Carrie Weick, Treas. Peter Trevino will handle publicity and Lloyd Cost is the



The San Francisco FrontRunners

Physique '87 Sponsors Training Seminars For Bodybuilders

Would you like a bigger chest? Or add a couple of inches to your arms and back?

Now's your chance to learn from the stars of the Gay Games II physique team. Men and women of all ages are invited to go through actual training routines and receive instruction in proper weight training.

The seminar is part of a monthly series sponsored by Physique '87, which will also feature guest bodybuilders. The next workshop is Sunday, March 1, at the City Athletic Club (2500 Market St., above Castro). It begins at 6:30 p.m. and the topic will be Training Programs and Tips. A \$3 donation is requested.

The training workshop is designed not only to introduce the various aspects of bodybuilding to the gay community, but will also lead up to the first-ever national gay bodybuilding championships, coming in June. The contest, Physique '87, will be held during the week of the Gay Freedom Day Parade, and will feature competitions for men and

women of all age groups.

"It's a great opportunity for both newcomers and others interested in bodybuilding to receive instruction from knowledgeable trainers," says George Birimisa, a member of the Physique '87 committee and a participant in the physique contest at Gay Games II. "It's hands-on instruction, and each student can tailor his or her own workout to their particular needs, whether it be for strengthening skills in a particular sport, toning one's body, or bodybuilding."

Adds Kitty Tsui, also a member of Physique '87 and bronze medalist in the lightweight division at Gay Games II, "A well developed physique is not needed to attend the training workshops. You can be a beginning bodybuilder and your goal may be Physique '88 or Gay Games III in Vancouver in 1990. Everyone is welcome and we will be there to help you. Judging by the turnout of our first seminar, we expect a large, enthusiastic crowd. Be sure to wear your workout gear." ●

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Backstage at the Physique competition at Gay Games II
(Photo: S. McLennan)

Tom Waddell To Be Honored

Tom Waddell, founder of the Gay Games, will be given a Pioneer Award by People Speaking, a Bay Area non-profit organization, at its Third Annual Speakers of the Year awards dinner Feb. 24.

The honorees were selected for their courage in speaking out at a grass-roots level within their own communities from nominees solicited from hundreds of community groups throughout the Bay Area. Other honorees include: Marya Grambs and Roma Guy of the Women's Foundation, Carmen Broz, Wade Hudson, Lillie Mae Jones, Richard Ramirez, Andrea Carmen of the American Indian Treaty Council, and Milo Smith of the Jobs for Older Women Action Project.

The awards dinner will be held at the Chinese Cultural Center, Financial District Holiday Inn at 7 p.m. Call 459-4457 for more information.

Gay Sports Festival

Team Seattle will host its first annual Northwest Gay/Lesbian Sports Festival in Seattle this summer over the Fourth of July weekend to promote continued development of sport opportunities for the gay and lesbian community following Gay Games II in San Francisco.

Currently, nine sports are anticipated: soccer, softball, volleyball, swimming & diving, 5K and 10K runs, bowling, tennis, racquetball, and wrestling. Team Seattle plans to finalize its list of sports for the festival by April 15, and additional sports are being considered, including darts, rowing, cycling, and others. Many of the sports will be sanctioned by their appropriate national sport associations.

Team Seattle is the organizing group which put together Seattle's team to Gay Games II. With 153 men and women athletes in 15 or 17 sports offered, Team Seattle had the largest contingent in Gay Games II outside California, except New York City.

Planning for the Northwest Gay/Lesbian Sports Festival is well underway. A \$3,000 corporate sponsorship has already been received from K&L Distributors, Inc., to help pay for promotional costs. K&L is the major distributor of Anheuser-Busch products in western Washington.

Peterson expects more than 500 athletes to participate, with teams and individuals coming from throughout the Pacific Northwest, primarily from Seattle, Portland, Vancouver, Spokane, and Northern California.

The "festival" part of the sport weekend will include an all-athlete banquet July 5, and a special athlete/community party on the fourth of July. Most competitions will be held Saturday, July 4, with some beginning July 3, and several on Sunday, July 5. An attempt will be made to provide housing for all athletes indicating a need.

Entries for the festival will be due in early June. Athletes interested in receiving additional information and/or entry forms should write Team Seattle at 600 East Pine St., Seattle, WA 98122. Or call Team Seattle at (206) 322-2777 leaving a name, phone number, and mailing address.

Gay Softball League Meeting at Ginger's Too, \$ Due

by Tom Vindeed

For those of you desiring to sponsor a team in the Gay Softball League this season, your sponsor fee is due in full this Saturday at noon at Ginger's Too, 43 6th St.

The fee is \$400 and it is not refundable. So far it looks as if we will have four women's teams and 16 men's or mixed teams. If Francis and Schneck are on The Village's and The Pilsner Inn's teams, respectively, then they are mixed teams.

Many of you have never been to Ginger's Too, which is owned by Don Rogers, and this would be a good time to make an appearance. Ginger's Too is a cozy, typical downtown bar. Besides, at this meeting you'll find out who is going to be in the league this season.

Congratulations to Rick Ritt for pulling off a highly successful progressive dinner a couple of weeks ago. Believe it or not, 82 people showed up and the World Series netted \$750. Special thanks to the sponsors who were invited and participated. As usual, John Pavoni of the Eagle - yes I said SF Eagle - cooked the roast beef to a fare-thee-well. Is there another one planned? If not, there should be.

The Cafe San Marcos had a Tupperware Party for its two teams and it turned out to be fun. It's nice to see Len back in the league; he's a big asset.

The Pendulum held an auction and donated a nice \$350 to the World Series. If every team did that, it would net about \$5,000 to the series. Thanks to the Pirates' Bob Viereck and Tem Sherck.

Finally, the 1987 Mr./Ms. GSL Contest will get underway early this year. The contest will be open to people outside the GSL, which should generate a lot more interest, and hopefully revenue. The contest is being underwritten by the Endup softball team as its contribution to the World Series.

Applications will be available this Saturday, and it is expected that every team will have at least one representative. Team managers will be given all the pertinent information when it becomes available. The contest will start March 25 and end July 8, with the winners being announced at the Switchitters' Ball on July 25.

For more World Series information, come to the GSL meeting this Saturday.

Gay World Series Returns To S.F.

by Chuck Smith

The Gay Softball League caps its tenth anniversary year by hosting the World Series of Gay Softball this September, and from all indications it should be an exciting, memorable sporting event for the city. It will also be the largest World Series tournament yet to be produced, and is the biggest challenge yet faced in the GSL's ten years of existence.

Though we have seen the Series played here twice before — the initial match between San Francisco and New York in 1977, and again in 1982 as an 11-city tourney — the number of cities involved has exploded in just the last few years and is now a major athletic event with every major athletic headache you can think of. How do you meet 800 athletes from 24 different cities at the airport, get them into the city and housed, entertain them and yourself for an entire week, in addition to running two serious tournaments (men and women), get them all together in one place for a final banquet, and return them to the airport at the end of the week without getting a headache? Whew.

Of course, there's still a lot of work still to be done and volunteers are most definitely welcome.

But the men and women of the GSL are ready! The various committees are in place and not only functioning, but moving rapidly toward their stated goals. Of course, there's a lot of work still to be done and volunteers are most definitely welcome. You too can become part of the excitement, and if you do, you'll experience an action-packed World Series week, running Aug. 30 through Labor Day, Sept. 7, combining high-caliber daily competition with afternoon and evening socializing, not to mention all the fun events planned between now and then. I wouldn't miss them if I were you, and in the next several weeks I'll detail what plans we have for this exciting week and how you can get involved. Keep an eye on this sports section for bi-weekly updates as well as a GSL Calendar of forthcoming events — we'll try to involve you, inform you, and entertain you, all at the same time!

Gay Athletes Fight AIDS

The North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance has joined forces with the many gay organizations already in the fight against AIDS. This December, NAGAAA will present \$1,000 to the New York City's Big Apple Softball Association which in turn will donate the money to an AIDS charity. In the future, NAGAAA will be more active in supporting AIDS victims and research in the United States and Canada.

This donation was announced Aug. 30, at the Manhattan Center during the closing banquet of the 10th Annual Gay World Series, which was held in Central Park. The Los Angeles Slammers emerged as the 1986 World Champions. In 1987, the World Champion Slammers will defend their pennant title in San Francisco—the host city of the 1987 Gay World Series.

An event such as the Gay World Series, sponsored by NAGAAA, showcases the talents of some of the best gay athletes in the world. However, NAGAAA is open to all gay men and women regardless of their athletic ability or experience. One of the purposes for NAGAAA's founding ten years ago was not only to promote athletics as an activity in which gay men could compete at the same level as heterosexuals, but also to bring gay male athletes, and more recently gay female athletes, under a common bond.

Presently, NAGAAA consists of member softball associations located in 23 cities across the United States and Canada. Predominantly male when founded, NAGAAA is now open to men and women. Two years ago, NAGAAA opened a women's division which is extremely successful and still growing every day.

For information about NAGAAA in your area, send requests to Nancy Pribich, NAGAAA Publicity Chair, 606 N. Negley Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.



There is currently an anthropologic study on sale at the Walt Whitman Bookstore called *The Spirit and the Flesh* which discusses the role of gay native Americans in society before the arrival of the white man.

The white man continues to raise havoc among the native American population, this time at Big Mountain where, needless to say, someone has found uranium.

This forced relocation is devastating to their survival, especially at this time of year during freezing weather.

Anyone who has extra, preferably warm, clothing they would like to donate to the Indians at Big Mountain may contact Peter at 431-5171.

The Great Spirit would be most grateful.

"Remember the wild and wooly days?"

I still have a satisfying, rewarding lifestyle . . . only now I'm not careless about it. But it took some listening — and talking — to get there. That's what I got from just four hours at a Stop AIDS meeting."

— Allan Davis

To attend a Stop AIDS meeting, call 621-7177

The Stop AIDS Project is funded in part by the San Francisco Dept. of Public Health and the California Dept. of Health Services.

Design: Ken Henderson



STOP AIDS PROJECT

It's about change. And isn't it about time?

Now It Can Be Told

A Sense of Pride: The Story of Gay Games II
by Roy Coe

by Rick Thoman

Roy Coe's story of Gay Games II, *A Sense of Pride*, is a decent attempt at explaining the experience of the Games. Through a series of 50 interviews, accompanied by a myriad of photos, Coe tries to present the feeling that swept through San Francisco last August as 3,500 athletes joined together to celebrate Gay Games II.

As with any event the scale of the Gay Games, there are a multitude of stories to tell. Each athlete, each volunteer, each spectator has a special moment from the Games that personally expresses their commitment and participation in this monumental event. *A Sense of Pride: The Story of Gay Games II* captures some of the stories that are a part of the Games, and while they may not be the best representatives of that experience, they do give an overall feeling of what the Games are all about. And the book certainly falls within the edicts of the Games, stressing participation by not listing medal winners.

If there's any failing regarding the book it has to do with what it does not include. Coe's 50 interviews do not cover all 17 sports. Billiards, soccer, and bowling had no "human interest" story to go along with their page or two of photos, which is a shame, particularly in the case of bowling where some professional-scale competition occurred and should have been discussed.

While those sports were overlooked, volleyball, track, and swimming received generous space with pages of photos and interviews. You can tell where Coe (who competed in track) spent most of his time during the Games.

Coe does a great job in his Countdown section to let the reader in on the chaotic nature of the final days of planning and action that took place to get the Games ready and running smoothly. One of the most compelling points of "pride" regarding the Games is the vastness of the undertaking, done primarily with long, hard hours put in by volunteers and individuals com-

mitted to athletics and the gay community. There was a great deal of pride in the community in having pulled off an event of this size and nature. Also included is important information regarding the founding of the Games, its court case with the U.S. Olympic Committee, and a brief history of Gay Games I.

While the book works on an emotional level to try to give the reader a sense of the "feelings" the Games evoked, it does little to give the hard facts about the scope of the Games and the events involved. Who was involved in these events? Were there men's and women's soccer teams, volleyball teams, wrestlers? How many people over 40 years old participated? How many people outside the United States participated? The Games had stressed their inclusion of all people, but this book doesn't show the level of involvement that actually did occur.

It's a shame the book doesn't contain a list of the medal winners for each sport. Although participation, not winning, is the key to the Gay Games philosophy, a list of medalists would adequately show the scope of participation, by men, by women, by city, and in some sports, by age group. Recognition of the self-excellence achieved by the participants of the Games should have been included in any book representing the story of the Games. If, as Rita Mae Brown said, the Games are a celebration of the best in us, then just how good were we? In Coe's interview with swimmer Craig Mallory, we discover that Mallory not only won five gold medals, but set a Pacific Coast Masters record in the 50-yard freestyle. How many other records were set at the Games? How many other stories of self-excellence and community pride went untold? We may never know.

Coe presumably did the best he could to prepare the book in a timely manner and, to be sure, the interviews make good reading for anyone trying to recapture the experience of the Games. It's just too bad Coe chose to do it all



Roy Coe and Scott McLennan sign copies of their book, *A Sense of Pride: The Story of Gay Games II* at the Walt Whitman Bookshop (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

alone. For an event of this scale, input from a variety of sources may have made the job easier and the book a better representation of the story of Gay Games II. Scott McLennan's photographs, which are the main source of photos in the book, occasionally stray into well-worn territory. How many pictures of men kissing are

really necessary? Instead, how about some photos of the hugs and congratulatory hand-shakes that took place between competitors before and after competition?

Although lacking, *A Sense of Pride* still presents a worthy picture of the Games, and hopefully will act as an inspiration for

others to join the experience in Vancouver in 1990. As Dr. Tom Waddell, founder of the Gay Games, remarks in his interview with Coe, "This is sport. This is recreational. Here are the beautiful human interest stories." Well, at least, here's some of them.

Reaching Common Ground

A photographic documentary exhibition of the United Nations Conference on the Decade of Women in Nairobi, Kenya in July 1985 will be at the San Francisco African American Historical and Cultural Society, Building C at the Fort Mason Center, from March 1 to April 30, and at the Alpha Photo Gallery, 2999 College Ave., Berkeley, from March 6-31.

An opening reception at Fort Mason will take place March 8 from 3 to 5 p.m. Hours for viewing are Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. Call 441-0640 for more information. The opening reception at Alpha Photo Gallery will take place March 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. Gallery viewing hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 843-9980 for more in-

formation.

Ann Meredith will also have a show at the rental gallery at the Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak St., from March 1 through 31, of large-scale color photographs in Cibachrome called Urban Landscapes. Call 834-2296 for more information.

BOWLING

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES BOWLING

SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE

(Week 18 of 30 - as of 2/8/87)

1. Fishes and Crab	11	1
2. Strange Interlude	9	3
3. Alley Cats	9	3
4. Strike Force	9	3
5. Tidy Bowlers	8	4
6. Sassy	7	5
7. Dude Theatre	7	5
8. PG Gutter Girls	7	5
9. Jerry's Kids	7	5
10. Imposters	7	5
11. Hot Slots	6	6
12. Boobs and Buns	6	6
13. Beauties and Beast	6	6
14. Hard Rock	5	7
15. Pilsner	4½	7½
16. East Bay Bobcats	4	8
17. Mary's Boys	4	8
18. Royalty & Versailles	4	8
19. Spare Us	4	8
20. Diner Dogs	4	8
21. Hodge-Podge	1½	10½
22. Crowd Pleasers	0	12

HAWAII VACATION LEAGUE

(Week 34 of 40 as of 2/6/87)

1. Wicked Wahines	37	19
2. The Eruptions	32	24
3. Diamond Head	32	24
4. Cookies N' Creme	28	28
5. Lackanookie	26	22
6. Mane Islanders	22	26
7. Oahu Lei U	21	35
8. Capricorn I	16	36

MONDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

(Week 18 of 30 - as of 2/9/87)

1. After Everyone! D-J	10	2
2. Rawhide	9	3
3. Play With It, Ltd.	8	4
4. Bowling Bags	8	4
5. The Producers	8	4
6. Alvin's	8	4
7. Foote Plumbing	8	4
8. Bow K	6	6
9. Damaged Goods	6	6
10. Liquid Experience	6	6
11. Fore Strikes	6	6
12. Ron's Hardwoods	5	7

13. Damaged Goods Too	5	7
14. El Rio Tartarugas	5	7
15. Do We Care?	4	8
16. CS Low Hangers	4	8
17. Pacific Coast Glass	2	10
18. Good Time Keglers	0	12

TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

(Week 17 of 30 - as of 2/3/87)

1. S'rry Girls From Hell	7	1
2. Kimo's Kows	7	1
3. "Big Bang Theory"	6½	1½
4. Old Crows	6	2
5. The 69 Club	6	2
6. Lucky Strikes	5	3
7. Cheerleaders	5	3
8. Hopeful Five	5	3
9. Easy Marks	5	3
10. Hammerjacks	4	4
11. Guttertrash	4	4
12. Lois Lanes	4	4
13. Ball Busters	4	4
14. Chez M'let Bowl'ettes	3	5
15. GAG (Get A Grippers)	2	6
16. Swaying Palms	2	6
17. Pin Busters	1½	6½
18. Deadbabies	1	7
19. Split Sisters	1	7
20. Meatballs II	1	7

WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

(Week 15 of 30 - as of 2/4/87)

1. Ginger-Snaps	41½	18½
2. Not Always Smart	39½	20½
3. New Ballers	38	22
4. Hob Nob & Company	37	23
5. Brand X	35½	24½
6. Rolo's	35	25
7. Play With It, Ltd.	34½	25½
8. High Wired	34½	25½
9. Giraffe	34	26
10. Lois Lanes	33	23
11. Mix-Ups	31	29
12. Starlettes	31	29
13. Ali Katz	31	29
14. E Z Pick Up	30½	29½
15. "Just Us Girls"	29	31
16. Vera's Vinyl	29	31
17. Male Image	28½	31½
18. Epic Flyers	28½	31½

19. Plus Five	28½	31½
20. Gutter Girls	28	32
21. El Rio Tartarugas I	27½	32½
22. Kokpit Dynasty	27½	32½
23. Pockettes	27	25
24. Bow K	25½	34½
25. My Guys	22	38
26. Mother Nature	21	39
27. The Wrappers	16	44
28. White Swallow	4	52

High Scratch Game

Dan Burley (Brand X)	255
Clarence Nora (Kokpit Dynsty)	249
Peter Padilla (Just Us Grls)	246
Nanci Van (El Rio Trtrgas)	225

High Scratch Series

Lowell Hills (PWIL)	646
Jim Barnes (New Ballers)	644
Dan Burley (Brand X)	617
Nanci Van (El Rio Trtrgas)	609

THURSDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

(Week 15 of 30 - as of 2/5/87)

1. Pendulum	38	22
2. Pndlm Mon Night CL	37	23
3. Hunks	36	24
4. Geri's Boys	36	24
5. Stallion	34½	25½
6. Twin Peaks	32	28
7. Old Rick's Gold Rm	31	29
8. Tattoos Too	31	29
9. Pendulum People	29½	30½
10. Geri's Girls	28½	31½
11. Tartans	27½	32½
12. Pendulum #1	26	30
13. Pendulum Penguins	22	38
14. Rubino's Kids	21	39
15. Hob Nob	0	4
16. Gallion	0	8

High Scratch Game

Jim Barnes (Stallion)	261
Russell Becker (Tartans)	257
Hunter Bauman (Soph Choice)	255

High Scratch Series

Hunter Bauman (Soph Choice)	678
Bruce Gresham (Pndim #1)	661
Russell Becker (Tartans)	620

Compiled by Jerry R. De Young •

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BOOKS

Of Good Old Boys and the New South

Restless Rednecks
by Roy F. Wood
Grey Fox Press, \$7.95

by Paul Reed

An extraordinary collection of short stories, *Restless Rednecks* grapples with themes of loneliness and isolation, religion and sex, the dichotomies of spirit and body, ignorance and enlightenment, and rugged American individualism.

Roy Wood is a gay writer whose stories have appeared in *Blueboy*, *Gay Sunshine*, *First Hand*, and *Honcho* magazines, among others. While some stories stir the erotic imagination, these are not erotic stories. These are, as the books' subtitle states, "gay tales of a changing south."

What seems erotic — and what is so deeply compelling about these stories — is the strength of the narrator's voice. Here is a masculine man, what another generation would have called a man's man. His voice is one of deep feelings, no-nonsense masculinity, painful and joyful, and as restless as a pioneer.

And pioneering is what these stories are all about. In nearly each narrative is a tale of a man who is trying to do it on his own — lead his life, seek homosexual love, and satisfy his spiritual hunger without yielding to urbanity — without shifting into a ghetto, physically or mentally. The narrator chooses to remain out there in the mainstream, in this case, rural Georgia. His experiences and insights form the core of each story.

There is much ado about reli-

gion in these tales. I daresay this is one of Wood's personal interests (or should I say pet peeves?), for several characters have animated discussions about the role of religion in the world and in sexuality, discussions that often amount to a vendetta. And we relish in Wood's observations, because his is a voice that knows its own mind, that states clearly and squarely that most religion — and its oppression of sexuality — is, for him, a pile of junk.

'Rural Georgia is hardly the stuff from which most gay writing is made, yet here it stands out symbolically, bringing the isolation and differentness of gay people into high relief.'

Some of the stories stand out above the others for their sheer powers of narration, subject, and evocative moods. The opening piece "Next Time..." is a heart-

rending piece about the pain of being cautious in a hostile community. The story "The Man Who Stood in the Corner" is a spine-tingling evocation of a haunting experience arising in the context of gay bashing. And the most painful, compelling, and dramatic gay story I have read in a long time is "The Lure of the Sirens," a sad tale of Fat Freddie, truly a lost soul who is condemned to haunt men's rooms and public parks. The narrator of the story mediates between sympathy and scorn with such craft that any reader will be reduced to a puddle of angry tears.

What is equally amazing about these tales is their setting. Rural Georgia is hardly the stuff from which most gay writing is made, yet here it stands out symbolically, bringing the isolation and differentness of gay people into high relief. Lest we urban gays feel too cozy in our cityfied niche, *Restless Rednecks* offers a different view. Here are warm porches at sunset, country bars full of latent homosexuality and overt hostility, crickets chirping in the steaming night — all the components that effectively evoke the South.

The unbridled enthusiasm I feel for this book might read like so much hyperbole, but it isn't. *Restless Rednecks* is a skillful offering from a fresh talent on the gay writing scene.

Language of Cranes Revisited

The Lost Language of Cranes
by David Leavitt
Alfred A. Knopf, \$17.95

by John Dolan

David Leavitt is a young and earnest writer and that may be part of the problem: He's got no sense of humor. As a realist using the traditional form of the novel, what he relies on as a substitute for humor is an unrelenting capacity for compassion. If you like his characters, there's no problem. If you don't, and the father is a problematical person, you may wonder if Leavitt's first novel isn't too well-crafted for its own good.

Owen and Ruth Benjamin are middle-aged. They live in an apartment in New York City which they've called home for more than 20 years, and because the building is going to co-op they are in real, practical trouble. Married for some 27 years, they have one child, a son. Philip is 25 and gay. So, as it turns out, is his father. (I'm not giving anything away. Mainstream reviews of this novel, which is published by a major company, have explored the plot at length, and have given the novel almost universal raves.) How a husband and wife can live together for years without the wife knowing her husband prefers men and how the husband hides and surreptitiously acts out his homosexuality is made believable, believe it or not.

By the time Philip, in the middle of a passionate and doomed affair with a man who can't or won't make a commitment, announces to his educated parents that he's gay, readers know more

about any one character than they know about each other, so the suspense depends on finding out how the Benjamins will respond to each other when, so to speak, the cats are let out of the bag.

If this sounds like the stuff of soap opera, it is. What gives the novel its quality is the quality of the writing. Leavitt, a graduate of Yale whose first book was the collection of short stories *Family Dancing*, is not going for cheap shots. He's going for literature. His compassion, his intelligence, and his ability to craft sentences into scenes and scenes into a plot are evident on every page. For a first novel, this is a good one.

Of tenderness, never easy to write about, Leavitt is only occasionally sentimental. Of conflict, easier to write about, Leavitt is also convincing, and only once is he melodramatic. He's great at describing what it means to live (not rich) in New York City, great at describing and illustrating the interplay between his major and subsidiary characters, and yet reading this novel was, for me, something of a trial.

It seems to me that David Leavitt is caught in a homophobic, educated world. He never explodes the presumptions of that world. He inspects them. His first novel, in every sense of the word, is a respectable achievement.

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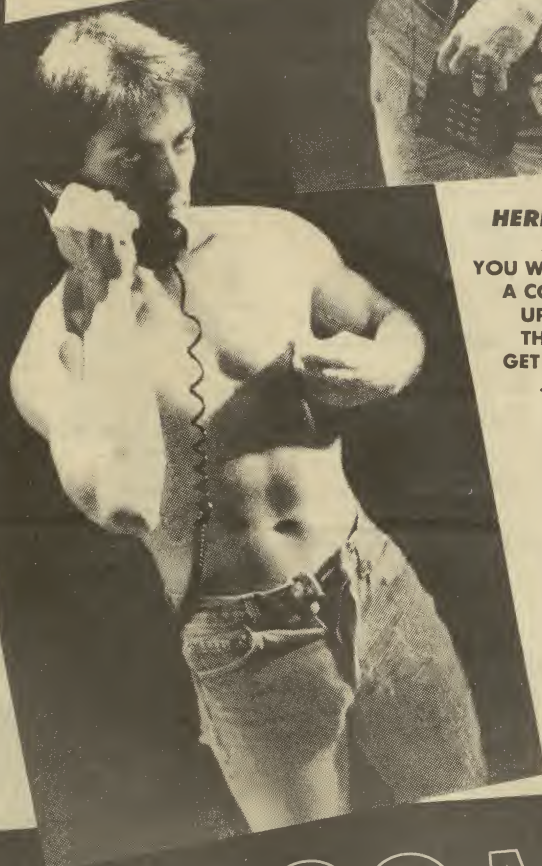
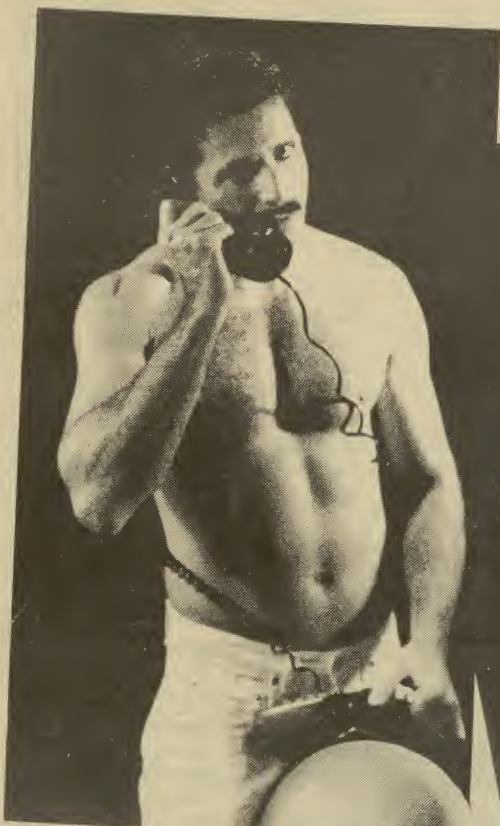
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